

Melon

Cucumis melo / *Citrullus lanatus* · Cucurbit family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Annual, sown or seedling
MATURITY 80–100 days



SUN
Full sun, warm



WATER
Regular, less as
fruit ripens



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



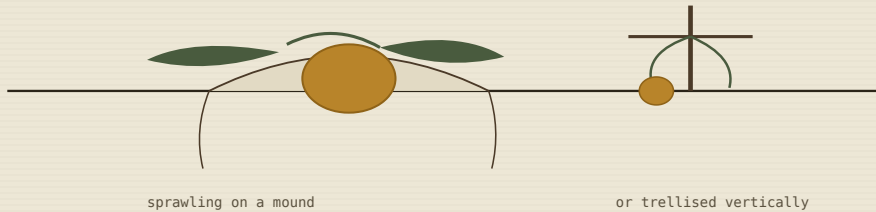
SPACING
1–2m



DEPTH
2–3cm

01 Needs real summer heat

Melons want more sustained warmth than pumpkin or zucchini to develop good sweetness — a long, hot summer matters more here than for most cucurbits.



02 Planting

METHOD	Sow or plant seedlings into a warm, rich mound.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained.
TIMING	Plant once soil and nights are reliably warm.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply while fruit is developing, then ease off as it nears ripeness to concentrate sugars.
- Mulch to retain moisture and keep fruit clean.
- Support developing fruit off the ground with a sling if trellised.
- Limit the number of fruit per vine for better size and sweetness.

04 Problems

- **Powdery mildew** — humid weather; improve airflow.
- **Fruit fly** — net or bag developing fruit.
- **Poor sweetness** — insufficient heat or too much water near ripening.
- **Poor fruit set** — low pollinator activity; hand-pollinate.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Rockmelon: fragrant, slips easily from the vine. Watermelon: dull skin, hollow sound when tapped.
METHOD	Cut from the vine rather than pulling.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Room temperature briefly, then fridge once cut.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Corn Radish	Potato	Rotate cucurbits on a 3-year cycle.