

# Watermelon

## Harvesting

The crop is ready for harvest in about 75-100 days after sowing depending upon cultivar and season. For local market harvesting should be done at full maturity while for transporting to distant markets, it is done slightly earlier. Maturity in watermelon can be judged from withering of tendril, change in belly colour or ground spot to yellow and thumping test. The mature fruits on thumping gives dull sound as against metallic sound of unripe fruits. The fruit should be separated from the vines with the help of a knife.

### **Yield**

The yield of watermelon varies according to the system of cultivation, variety, season and several other factors. The average fruit yield varies from 20 to 25 t/ha.