

Watermelon

Planting

Season of Planting

The land is brought to fine tilth by giving two crosswise ploughing. In North Indian plains, watermelons are sown in February-March whereas in North eastern and western India best time of sowing is during November to January. In South and Central India, where winter is neither severe nor long, these are grown almost round the year.

Methods of Planting

Before sowing seeds are soaked in luke warm water for 12 hours. The water is drained out and the seeds are kept overnight in a wet gunny bag. This treatment increases the germination percentage. Normally 1.5-2.0 kg of seeds are required for planting one hectare area. Various system of sowing has been adopted depending on the season and system of cultivation.

Furrow method

In this method, furrows are opened at a distance of 2-3 m apart. Sowing is done on either sides of furrows and the vines are allowed to trail on the ground. 3-4 seeds are dibbled at a distance of 60-90 cm along the furrow.

Pit method

In case of pit method, pits of size 60 x 60 x 60 cm are dug at spacing of 2-3.5 x 0.6-1.2 m and filled with FYM and soil in equal proportions. Four seeds per pit are sown and finally two to three healthy vines are retained.

Hill method

In case of planting in river beds pits of size 30 x 30 x 30 cm are dug at a distance of 1-1.5 m. The pits are filled with equal quantities of soil and FYM. the soil is piled up in the form of a hill and two seeds are planted on each hill.