

**Make room , their easy to grow!**

Love the  
Food  
You Eat!

# Growing Winter Squash (Acorn & Butternut Squash)

Winter Squash are easy to grow—if you have room. In addition to the familiar butternut and acorn squash, varieties come in a staggering diversity of fruit size, shape and color. Most winter squash produce sprawling vines. If space is tight, grow bush or semi-bush varieties. Flowers are edible and sometimes battered and fried, or stuffed!



**When & How to Plant:** Squash like warm soil and are very sensitive to frost. So don't be in a rush to plant early in spring. Wait until danger of frost has passed and soil has warmed to about 70 degrees or about 2 weeks after the last frost date.

**Maintenance & Care:** Black plastic mulch can speed growth, especially in cool, short season areas. Use row covers to protect plants early in the season and to prevent insect problems. Remove before flowering to allow pollination by insects or when hot weather arrives. At the end of the season, remove or till in vines to reduce mildew.

Mulching plants helps retain moisture and suppress weeds. Mounding soil around the base of the plants can discourage squash borers from laying eggs.

**Preferred Sunlight:** Full Sun.

**Preferred Soil Conditions:** Prefers well-drained, fertile, loose soil, high in organic matter. Plentiful and consistent moisture is needed from the time plants emerge until fruits begin to fill out.



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**Some varieties recommended for New York Include:**

**Butternut:**

Bugle  
Harris Betternut  
Ponca Baby  
Waltham Butternut  
Zenith

**Acorn:**

Carnival  
Sweet Dumpling  
Table Ace  
Table King Bush  
Table Queen (a.k.a. Ebony)  
Tuffy

**Buttercup/Kabocha Type:**

Americup  
Autumn Cup  
Burgess Buttercup  
Sweet Mama  
Sweet Meat

**Hubbard Type:**

Blue Ballet  
Hubbard  
Red Kuri

**Misc:**

Delicata  
Gold Nugget  
Harlequin  
Sweet Dumpling  
Vegetable Spaghetti

**Source:**

**Cornell University, Home Gardening, Vegetable Growing Guides.  
For a complete Growing Guide and additional information visit.**

[www.gardening.cornell.edu](http://www.gardening.cornell.edu)



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