

Easy to Grow in Containers!

Love the
Food
You Eat!

Growing Melons

Muskmelon, Cantaloupe, Honeydew Melon, fresh from the garden to your kitchen.

When & How to Plant: Direct seed 1 to 2 weeks after average first frost when soil is 70 degrees or warmer. Plant 1/2 inch deep, 6 seeds per hill, hills 4 to 6 feet apart; or 1 foot apart in rows 5 feet apart. Can plant at closer spacings if trellised. Thin to 2 to 3 plants per hill.



For transplanting, sow seeds indoors 1/2 inch deep in peat pots (2 inch square or bigger), 2 to 4 weeks before setting out. Plants should have one or two true leaves when transplanted. Transplant at same spacings as direct-seeded crops— 2 to 3 plants per hill in hills spaced 4 to 6 feet apart, or 1 to 2 feet apart in rows 5 feet apart. Transplants are delicate and roots are sensitive to disturbance. If you need to thin, use scissors. Keep soil intact around plant when transplanting.

Maintenance & Care: Mulch soil after soil has warmed to help maintain consistent moisture and suppress weeds. If using fabric row covers, remove at flowering to allow pollination by bees. Good pollination is critical to fruit set. Plants require consistent moisture until pollination. Once fruits are about the size of a tennis ball, only water if soil is dry and leaves show signs of wilting.

If growing melons on a trellis, support fruit with slings made from netting, fabric or pantyhose. Trellising improves air circulation around plants and can help reduce foliar disease problems. Choose small-fruited varieties and reduce plant spacing.

For large planting, leave a strip of rye cover crop every second or third row perpendicular to prevailing winds to protect plants from damaging winds. To reduce insect and disease problems, avoid planting cucumber family crops (melons, squash, pumpkins) in the same spot two years in a row.

Preferred Sunlight: Full Sun.

Preferred Soil Conditions: Prefers warm, well drained soil high in organic matter. Consistent, plentiful moisture is needed until fruit is about the size of a tennis ball. Soil temperatures below 50 degrees slow growth. Consider using black plastic and fabric row covers to speed soil warming. Sandy or light textured soils that warm quickly in spring are best.



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Some varieties recommended for New York Include:

Orange flesh:

Ambrosia
Gold Star
Athena
Burpee Hybrid
Earliqueen
Fastbreak
Harper Hybrid
Iroquois
Pusar
Superstar

Green Flesh:

Early Dew
Passport

Specialty:

Charantais
Edonis
Galia

Heirloom:

Eel River
Jenny Lind
Rocky Ford
Schoon's Hard shell

Source:

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

www.gardening.cornell.edu



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