

Package of Practice for Muskmelon Cultivation

Muskmelon grows best in hot and dry climates. Germination is poor when temperatures fall below 20°C. Frost and cold weather negatively affect plant growth. High temperatures, low humidity, and plenty of sunlight contribute to better fruit sweetness and flavor development.

Sowing Season

In plain regions, sowing should be done **between October and the first week of March**. However, **mid-February** is considered the most ideal time for planting.

Seed Rate and Spacing

Seed Rate: 1.0 kg per hectare

Spacing:

Row to Row: 200 cm

Plant to Plant: 60 cm

Fertilizer Application Schedule

During field preparation, apply **30–40 cartloads of well-decomposed farmyard manure (FYM)** per hectare. Follow the **recommended NPK (Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium) schedule** below:

Stage	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)
At Transplanting	80 kg	100 kg	100 kg
3-Leaf Stage	40 kg	0	0
Before Flowering	40 kg	0	0
Total	160 kg	100 kg	100 kg

Fertilizer Equivalents:

40 kg Nitrogen = 87 kg Urea

100 kg Phosphorus = 217 kg DAP

100 kg Potassium = 166 kg MOP

Pest Management in Muskmelon**Aphids (Mahua)**

Spray any of the following:

Imidacloprid (Confidor): 0.6 ml/L

Thiamethoxam (Actara): 0.3 gm/L

Metasystox: 2 ml/L

Monocrotophos: 15 ml/L

Dimethoate (Rogor): 2.5 ml/L

Leaf-Eating Caterpillars

Spray with:

Malathion: 2 ml/L

Quinalphos (Ekalux): 2 ml/L

Metasystox: 2 ml/L

Carbaryl (Sevin): 3 gm/L

Fruit Flies

Plow the field after harvest to expose pupae to sunlight.

Collect and destroy infested fruits and dried leaves.

Avoid over-ripening of fruits on the plant.

Spray with:

Malathion: 2 ml/L

Carbaryl or Lebaycid: 1.25 ml/L

Ekalux: 2 ml/L

Major Diseases in Muskmelon

Powdery Mildew

Spray with:

Dinocap (Karathane): 0.5–1.0 ml/L

Triadimefon (Calixin): 3 gm/L

Downy Mildew

Spray with:

Metalaxyl + Mancozeb (Ridomil): 1.5 ml/L

Fusarium Wilt

Practice crop rotation (every 4–5 years)

Seed treatment with Carbendazim (Bavistin): 2 gm/L

Anthracnose

Follow crop rotation practices

Spray with:

Mancozeb (Dithane M-45): 2 gm/L

Carbendazim (Bavistin): 1 gm/L

Mosaic Virus

Control aphids, jassids, and other virus-transmitting pests effectively.

Additional Tips for Higher Yield

Optimal seed germination temperature: **20–25°C**

Ideal daytime temperature for growth and yield: **25–30°C**

Temperatures above 40°C may lead to more male flowers and round-shaped fruits.

Use well-drained, fertile soil with **pH 5.0–5.7**.

When plants have 2–4 leaves, spray **Boron, Calcium, and Molybdenum (3 gm/L)** for better growth.

Maintain consistent **soil moisture** until fruit maturity.

Disclaimer

The crop recommendations mentioned are based on **field research conducted at company research stations**. However, actual performance may vary depending on **soil type, weather conditions, pest infestations, and crop management practices**. Farmers are advised to follow region-specific agricultural guidelines and consult local **agricultural officers or universities** for best results.

Note: The farmer holds complete responsibility for crop performance. Use quality seeds, sow at the right time, and follow integrated crop management practices for **maximum yield and quality production**.