

PUMPKINS, BUTTERNUT

Cultural Information

General

Climate Requirement: Although they will tolerate very hot conditions pumpkins prefer warm conditions with 28-34 degree days and 18-25 degree nights. Frosts and cold (<10 C) will cause severe yield reduction or total losses. Soil temperatures should be over 18 C	
Frost Sensitivity: Very sensitive to cold and or frosty conditions.	
Seed Requirement Direct Plant (kg/ha): 2.5 - 3.0	Seed Planting Depth (cm): 3.0
Seed Requirement Transplant (g/ha):	Seeds per gram (approx): 5-10
Plant Population: 2500-10500 per ha, usually about 8500.	
Row spacing: 1.5-2.4 Metres	Plant Spacing: 5-1.5 Metres
Potential Disease Problems: Powdery Mildew is common, as are various Mosaic type viral diseases. Control is difficult to impossible if conditions favour these diseases	

Germination Information

Germination Temperature: Range 15-35 C, Optimum 22-28 C	
Days to Emergence: 5-7 days	Emergence to Transplant: 6-14 days, 1st true leaf
Plant to Maturity: Depending on variety and season, 85-120 days	
Transplant Recommendation: Direct seeding is the preferred planting method unless sub optimum conditions apply.	

Soil and Nutrition

Salinity Sensitivity: medium-low tolerance	Optimum pH: 5.5-6.8
Nutrient Removal (kg/ha) (At average yield, greater if yield is higher)	
Vegetative: N 28 kg / Ha, P 10 kg / Ha, K 27 Kg / Ha, Ca 105 Kg /Ha, Mg 12 Kg / Ha	
Harvested Product: N 40 Kg, P 10 Kg, and K 46 Kg. at 25 tonne per Ha.	
Total Nutrient Removal	
N 75 Kg, P 20 Kg, K 73 Kg, Ca 120 Kg , Mg 16 Kg / ha	
Fertiliser Application: Approximately 70 % of total including all P should be applied as a basal application and the balance as side dresses when the vines begin to flower and actively run.	

Irrigation Requirement

Irrigation System: Flood or trickle irrigation is preferred, over head systems can increase incidence of fungal disease
Water Usage (average): 4.8-5.5 Ml per ha per crop more in extreme heat

Yield Potential

Average Yield: 15-20 tonne per Ha
Packing: Usually packed in 1/2 or 3/4 bushel cartons or net bags, after size grading and cleaning. Will store well if kept dry and unmarked.

This information is subject to the following disclaimer.