

# SQUASH, BUTTON SQUASH

## Cultural Information

### General

<b>Climate Requirement:</b> Although they will tolerate very hot conditions Button squash 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	
<b>Frost Sensitivity:</b> Very sensitive to cold and or frosty conditions.	
<b>Seed Requirement Direct Plant (kg/ha):</b> 2.5	<b>Seed Planting Depth (cm):</b> 3.0
<b>Seed Requirement Transplant (g/ha):</b>	<b>Seeds per gram (approx):</b> 5-10
<b>Plant Population:</b> 6600-11000 per Ha	
<b>Row spacing:</b> 1.5-1.8 metres	<b>Plant Spacing:</b> 0.5-1 Metre
<b>Potential Disease Problems:</b> Powdery Mildew and mosaic viruses are the most serious diseases of Button squash	

### Germination Information

<b>Germination Temperature:</b> Range 15-35 C Optimum 23-28 C	
<b>Days to Emergence:</b> 3-7 days	<b>Emergence to Transplant:</b> 8-14 days
<b>Plant to Maturity:</b> 38-48 days	
<b>Transplant Recommendation:</b> Extreme care required to prevent transplant shock, maximum 3rd true leaf.	

### Soil and Nutrition

<b>Salinity Sensitivity:</b> medium salt tolerance	<b>Optimum pH:</b> 5.5-6.8
<b>Nutrient Removal (kg/ha) (At average yield, greater if yield is higher)</b>	
<b>Vegetative:</b> N 60 Kg, P 12 Kg, K 60 Kg, Ca 95 Kg, Mg 22 Kg. per Ha	
<b>Harvested Product:</b> N 40 Kg, P 10 Kg, K 35 Kg.	
<b>Total Nutrient Removal</b>	
N 90 Kg , P 22 Kg, K 95 Kg, Ca 120 Kg, Mg 25 Kg. per Ha	
<b>Fertiliser Application:</b> Approximately 50 % of totals and 90 % of P should be as a basal dressing balance in regular timed applications once harvest has commenced to maintain active growth and fruit set	

### Irrigation Requirement

<b>Irrigation System:</b> Flood or trickle irrigation is preferred, over head systems can increase incidence of fungal disease
<b>Water Usage (average):</b> 2.9-3.5 Ml per Ha

### Yield Potential

<b>Average Yield:</b> 650-800 cases per Ha
<b>Packing:</b> Button squash is usually packed in 1/2 or 1/4 bushel cartons 4-7 kg. Average harvested fruit size will influence overall yield.

This information is subject to the following disclaimer.