

Hybrid triploid growing tips



The production capacity of triploid hybrid watermelons as well as their outstanding quality results from the adherence to specific production procedures. From germination of the seed through to harvest, triploids respond to careful and definite cultural procedures. The following suggestions are offered to growers in order that they might achieve the optimum results with triploid watermelons.

GERMINATION

- The most common reasons for poor germination are over watering, incorrect watering, poor temperature control and shallow seed placement.
- For growing transplants, the growing medium should be moist but not wet. Check moisture level by squeezing a handful of medium. Generally, if water drips from the medium it is too wet.
- Water the medium and allow it to dry for 12 to 24 hours. During this time bring the temperature of the medium to 30 - 32° C (85 - 90° F). Before filling trays and seeding, stir the medium to ensure that it is evenly moistened.
- Seeds should be planted between 0.5 inches to 0.75 inches deep in trays. This planting depth helps to prevent germinating seeds from pushing out of the media and maintains better uniformity of moisture around seed.
- Place the seeded trays in a germination room for 48 to 72 hours or until germination begins (primed seed for 24 to 48 hours). The temperature of the room should be held at 30 - 32° C (85 - 90° F) and the relative humidity maintained between 90 and 100%.
- Once seedlings have begun to emerge, move the trays to the greenhouse. Maintain a temperature of approximately 27 - 30° C (80 - 85° F) until germination is complete.
- During the first week in the greenhouse water only as needed to keep the planting medium moist. Do not over water, this may destroy ungerminated seeds.
- Once the seedlings are established, temperature and watering can be adjusted to achieve sturdy plants.

TRANSPLANTING

- A pollinator (seeded variety) must be present to achieve fruit set.
- A ratio of two to three triploid (seedless) plants to one diploid (seeded) is recommended.
- Choose a pollinator that can be distinguished from the triploid at the time of harvest. SP-1 has shown to be an excellent choice.
- Bees are necessary to achieve pollination. Check with local extension agents or other professionals about the number of hives per acre recommended for your area.

FERTILIZATION AND IRRIGATION

- Triploids respond to normal fertilizer practices during the growing season. Check with local professionals or consultants on fertility programs to maximize yields.
- Plastic mulch and drip irrigation can be used to optimize yields.

DIRECT SEEDING

- Planting seed directly into the field is not recommended. Variable weather, specifically unfavorable soil temperatures and moisture conditions, can result in unsatisfactory germination and reduced plant population.

Syngenta Seeds is pleased to offer these recommendations to aid you in growing triploids. Our suggestions are general in nature and under specific growing conditions it may be necessary to alter or amend these suggestions.

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