BASIC CARE

**SUMMER SQUASH**

**Zucchini, Yellow Straight Neck, or Crooked Neck**

**COMMON PROBLEMS**

- Squash flowering but not fruiting
- Squash bugs

**BASIC CARE**

- **SUN**
  - Full exposure 6-8 hours a day

- **WATER**
  - Summer squash normally mature in 35-45 days.
  - Pour water directly into the soil at the base of the plant, not on the leaves. Keep soil consistently moist but not overly wet.
  - In summer, plants will need almost daily watering.
  - To test, press a thumb into soil; if dry, add water.

- **STORING**
  - Squash can be stored in a cool location for 2-3 days, but is best eaten soon after harvesting.

- **HARVESTING**
  - Harvest squash when they are young for best flavor, look for squash that are about 4-6 inches long and about 1.5 inches thick. Depending on variety, harvest squash from about 14-35 days after planting.

- **SQUASH ROTTING ON VINES**
  - If flower buds are rotting on the vines, they may be diseased by a squash fruit rot. Squirrels or rabbits may also be the culprit. Test for pests with a small stick; if fruit is rotting, remove it from the vine. If a wire mesh is built around the plant, this will help keep out these pests.

- **SQUASH BUGS**
  - They'll suck your leaves dry and can be removed by hand, but are more easily controlled if caught early.

- **SQUASH FLOWERING BUT NOT FRUITING**
  - They'll suck your leaves dry and can be removed by hand, but are more easily controlled if caught early.

**video/guide** You can be a matchmaker for squash! You may have to hand-pollinate them! Check out this informative guide/video.
Winter Squash

**BUTTERNUT, ACORN, SQUASH, SPAGHETTI SQUASH, PUMPKINS**

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### BASIC CARE

**SUN**
- Full exposure 6-8 hours a day.

**WATER**
- Pour water directly into the soil at the base of the plant, not on the leaves or fruits.
- Keep soil consistently moist but not overly wet.
- To test: push your finger one inch deep into soil, if dry, add water.

**STORAGE**
- Store in a cool, dark, dry location.

**HARVESTING**
- Harvest when squash are full color (no green pumpkins) and the vine will be starting to die.
- When ready for harvesting, winter squash should be full color.
- Winter squash have a hard, protective when mature - don’t harvest before this has a chance to develop.
- Winter squash normally mature in 80-120 days and can be planted once soils warm in the spring.

**NOTE**: Winter squash are so-called because they are harvested at the end of the summer and generally store better than summer squash - this making them more available to folks during the winter. You actually plant them in late spring!

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### COMMON PROBLEMS

**SQUASH FLOWERING BUT NOT FRUITING**
- More easily controlled if caught early. They'll suck your leaves dry and can be removed by hand, but are needed. Before you miss your chance at delicious squash.

**SQUASH BUGS**
- Look closely for signs of fruit development and step in to pollinate if needed. Because winter squashes have a longer maturation time, you’ll need to be a matchmaker for squash!

**winter Squash**

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