

# Seed Saving Guide for Melon

- member of the Cucurbit Family
- ideal for beginners
- annual life cycle
- even though melon contains wet seeds, no fermentation is required
- keep different melon varieties 800 feet to ½ mile apart or hand-pollinate several fruits
- save seed from at least 1-5 plants
- seed longevity around 4-5 years

## To harvest watermelon seeds:

- cut fruits off the vine when you would normally pick to eat & save some of the seeds or...
- or for better seed quality, leave a fruit on the vine past when you would normally pick to eat until the rind softens slightly

## To harvest other melon seeds:

- leave fruits on the vine past when you would normally pick them to eat - about 20 days
- fruit is mature when the rind softens slightly

## To clean all melon seeds:

- cut open the fruit & scoop out the seeds
- place seeds and any pulp in a strainer & rinse well with water
- once pulp is removed, place seeds on a container, coffee filters or screen in a protected location to dry for several days
- Seeds are dry when they are hard and can cleanly snap in half

**Be sure seeds are completely dry before returning them to the Seed Library or storing them at home for yourself.**



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**Growing & Seed Saving Guides researched & written by Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension Warren County**

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