



**Protocol for WATERMELON (Direct Seeding) using
The Masinag Organic Plant Supplement Land Area: 1 hectare**

Climate Requirement

- Watermelon grows best when the monthly average temperature is about 21°C to 29°C

Planting Season

- On- season planting is on the month of October to January
- Off- season planting is early August

Land Preparation

- a) For 1 hectare, broadcast 20 bags of chicken manure or compost on the field before plowing. (It is better to put the compost on the holes before planting)
- b) Plow the field properly to increase soil aeration. Plow and harrow the field 2-3 times for early growth and development. These are done 3 weeks prior to planting, to condition the soil
- c) Level the soil. Builds furrows that are 2m apart
- d) Spray the field with 1% Masinag solution (1L of Masinag diluted to 100L of water)

Planting

- a) Prepare a 1% Masinag solution (1L of Masinag diluted to 100L of water)
- b) Soak the seeds on the prepared solution for 30 minutes
- c) Plant 2-3 seeds per hill at a depth of 15cm. Planting distance ranges from 1.5m X 1.5m to 2.5m X 2.5m apart, depending on the variety

Nutrient Management

- a) 10-15 days after emergence (DAE), thin to one plant per hill and spray 1% Masinag solution (1L of Masinag diluted to 100L of water) directly to the soil
- b) 20 DAE, spray 1% Masinag solution (1L of Masinag diluted to 100L of water) directly to the leaves and soil

- c) 25 DAE, spray 1% Masinag solution (1L of Masinag diluted to 100L of water) directly to the leaves and soil then apply 10 kilos of complete fertilizer (14-14-14)
- d) 30 DAE, spray 1% Masinag solution (1L of Masinag diluted to 100L of water) directly to the soil
- e) 35 DAE, spray 1% Masinag solution (1L of Masinag diluted to 100L of water) directly to the soil

Other Cultural Management

1. Irrigation

- 1.1 Frequent high irrigation about 10-15 times is recommended at planting time, vegetative, flowering and fruiting development stage
- 1.2 Do not allow the fruit to get wet while irrigating
- 1.3 Two weeks prior the maturity, irrigation should be stopped.

2. Training of Vines

- 1.1 Rearrange or train the vines along the rows 25 days after planting to facilitate watering and weeding but main vines should not be touched anymore

3. Fruiting Thinning

- 1.1 Removal of misshapen fruits
- 1.2 Suggested thinning of 2 fruits per vines on variety that produces large- sized fruits and 4-6 in the case of small- fruited varieties are used. It is done when the largest fruit is 10cm long and 10cm diameter

Harvesting

- It takes a watermelon to mature from 35-45 days after pollination. Harvest indexes could be used:
 - a) Tapping – a dull or hallow sound is an indication of maturity
 - b) Color – fruit part resting on the ground becomes a distinct yellow patch as in sugar baby
 - c) Tendril right behind each fruit dried down up to the base