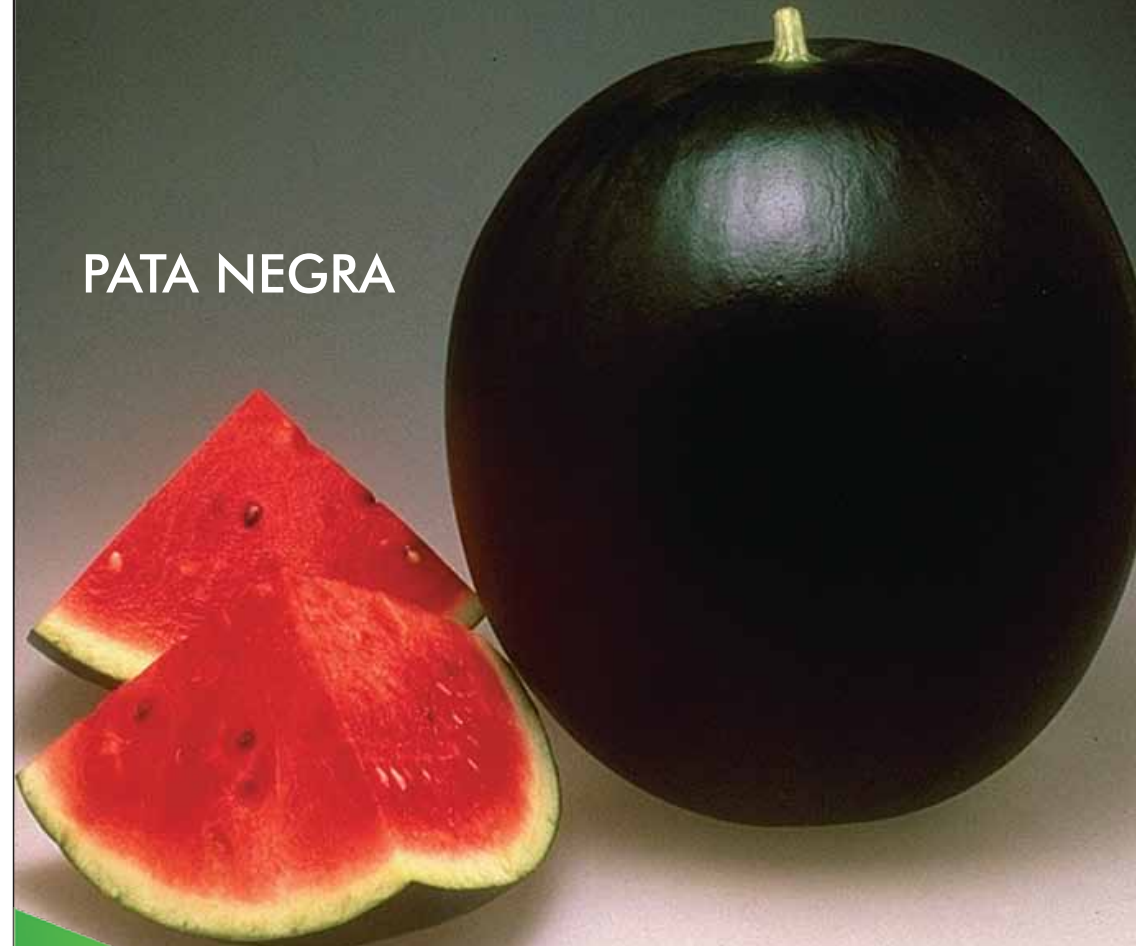


HYBRID WATERMELON

Very Sweet, Crispy Flesh.
Resistant to *Fusarium Wilt*.

PATA NEGRA



Growing Guideline Snapshot

Number of Seeds/g	23 -27 seeds /gram
Number of Seeds for Direct Sowing	1 -2 kg/ha 25 -35MK/ha
Recommended Sowing Depth	2 -4 cm
Temperature range for Germination	16 -35 °C
Days to Emergence	5 -10 days
In Row spacing	90 -1 0 0 cm
Between Row spacing	10 0 -1 50 cm
Temperature range for Growth	22 -30 °C
Ideal environment for growth	Hot dry weather; Low humidity, No/Low rainfall; Sunlight
Expected Yield	40 -55 t/ acre
Average effective root depth	90 -130 cm
Optimal soil type	Well drained loam - sandy soil. Not on heavy clay soils
Soil pH	pH 6 -6.8
Total Water Requirement	400 -450mm
Weekly Water Requirement	20 -30mm, pending the fruit development stage
Ideal storage regime: Temperature	10 -15 °C
Pests	Cutworm, Bollworm, Melon flies, Thrips, Nematodes
Diseases	Fusarium, Downy Mildew, Powdery Mildew, Anthracnose, Fruit Blotch & Gummy Stem Blight
Physiological Disorders	Blossom end Rot; Wilted Fruits
Plant Nutrition: Nitrogen (N)	120 -150 kg N/ha
Phosphorus (P)	60 -75 kg P/ha
Potassium (K)	100 -150 kg K/ha

Disclaimer: Performance of our seed may be adversely affected by environmental conditions, cultural practices, diseases, insects or other factors beyond our control. All information concerning the varieties and their performance given orally or in writing by Monsanto or its employees or its agents is given in good faith, but is not to be taken as a representation by Monsanto as to performance and suitability of the varieties sold. Performance may depend on local climatic conditions and other causes. Monsanto assumes no liability for the given information.

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INTRODUCING PATA NEGRA F1 AND SENTINEL F1 VARIETIES

Pata Negra F1

Introducing an early maturing dark green round variety with average fruit weights 7-10 Kg. The flesh is brilliant red, crisp and sweet. The variety is early maturing 100-120 days with average yield of 46 t/acre. Thick rind makes the variety for long keeping and good transportability.

“High yielding round variety with excellent fruit features”

Features

- Very high yielding with production potential of 46 t/acre
- Very sweet brilliant red, crisp flesh
- Early maturing variety 100-120 days
- Dark green round uniform fruit 7-10 kg in weight
- Very vigorous plant with good fruit cover
- Excellent transportability (Long distance shipper) due fruits have thick rind
- Variety tolerant to Fusarium wilt

New watermelon variety SENTINEL F1

High yielding Oblong to blocky shaped zebra variety

Features:

- Very high yielding 50t/acre
- Oblong- Blocky hybrid dark variety with vigorous vines
- Very sweet variety, deep red interior with crisp, juicy flesh
- Uniform fruit shape and weight of 11 to 14 Kg
- Thick fruit rind and shape make variety suitable for long distance shipping
- Tolerant to Fusarium wilt Race 1
- Maturity period of 100-120 days

GROWING WATERMELONS

Climatic requirements

- Require relatively hot dry weather conditions with enough sunlight
- Low humidity and little if any rain is also beneficial for this crop, high humidity leads to diseases and affect fruit quality and sweetness
- Temperature range from 18°C to 38°C
- Under these conditions the producer should obtain vigorous high yielding plants, with quality fruits containing high sugars.

Soil requirements

- Perform well on a wide range of soil types except for heavy clay soils, sandy loamy soils best. Watermelons require nutrient rich, deep well-drained soils that are free of nematodes
- Crop affected by Fusarium- grow resistant variety or observe a 7 years rotation program
- Wide pH range but optimum pH of 5.0-6.8 to ensure uptake of micronutrients.

Seedbed preparation

- Deep plough to break hardpans to enhance drainage and water percolation
- Recommend bed made 1.5m apart and 15-20cm high; if drip irrigation is used they are laid before the plastic mulch is put down.

Fertilizer use

- Soil analysis necessary to measure pH and level of each nutrients
- Liming keep the pH in check to prevent disorders like Blossom-end Rot.
- Nitrogen is usually applied in two applications, at the 2-4 leaf stage and the second when the vines start to develop.

Spacing and irrigation

- Plant population vary with fruit size required. Spacing of 100cm per 100cm adopted by most farmers
- Seed requirement of 400g per acre
- Higher populations are possible where drip irrigation and/or plastic mulches are used.
- Requires less irrigation as they have better root system, critical stage is during flowering and fruit set

Flower and pollination

- Pollination critical, place a beehive to guarantee pollination
- Pest control should be limited to protect the bees

Pest and disease control

- Melon fly and aphids are the greatest challenge. During flowering registered product for melon fly should be sprayed
- Diseases such as Alternaria, Fusarium, Antrachnose and powdery mildews challenging
- Control by use of registered products
- Resistant cultivars are available for these diseases
- Weeds managed by mechanical weeding avoid damaging the roots

Harvesting and handling

- Watermelons are harvested as close to full-ripeness as possible; this is when the fruit surface touching the soil is light yellow or when the vine closest to the fruit is starting to wilt
- The peduncle is cut off to prevent the peduncle from ripping into the skin of the fruit, which can result in secondary diseases.
- Watermelons are very prone to cracking or bursting during and after harvest due to rough handling.
- Watermelons should not be thrown during handling, stepped on or stacked too high.