

easy grow guide

Summer Squash

Balmoral

(Cucurbita pepo L.)



Plug Production: direct sow into a 3 or 4" (9-11cm) pot or final container

Sowing/Media:	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 6.0-6.5, EC 1.0-1.4mmhos.
Germination Stage 1: (4-6 days)	Media should be kept evenly moist and media temperature should be 66-71°F (19-22°C). Light is not necessary for germination and seeds should be covered with approx. 0.5" (1cm) of disease-free, peat based compost.
Germination Stage 2: (6-10 days)	Once cotyledons emerge, reduce media temperature to 60-70°F (16-21°C), but keep the media moist. Light levels should be between 1000-2000 f.c. HID lights can be used to boost light levels during periods of low light/ for early sowings.
Germination Stages 3&4: (10-14 days)	Maintain temperature around 60-70°F (16-21°C) during the day and 50-60°F (10-16°C). This will help minimise stretch. Dry media down slightly between irrigations but avoid wilt. Fertilize as required (once a week) using balanced calcium fertiliser such as a 14-0-14 at 50-100ppm. Keep media pH at 6.0-6.5 and EC 1.0-1.4 mmhos.

Growing On to Finish: 10-12" (25-30cm) container/ pot

Media:	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 6.0-6.5 and EC 1.0-1.4mmhos.
Temperatures:	Day temperatures can be 60-70°F (16-21°C) and night temperatures can be 50-60°F (10-15°C).
Light:	Light levels can be maintained at 1000-2000 f.c. HID lights can be used to boost light levels during periods of low light/ for early sowings. This will help minimise stretching.
Irrigation:	Once plants have established, practice a good wet/dry irrigation cycle. Control foliar diseases by creating good air movement and approved fungicides.
Fertiliser:	Feed once a week with 100-150ppm N from a balanced fertiliser such as 15-0-15, 13-2-13. Calcium is important especially during fruit development. Use a calcium based fertilizer or add to your existing fertiliser. Once fruits begin to set, fertilise every irrigation. Flush media every 3 rd or 4 th watering to avoid salt build up.
Growth Regulators:	Good moisture and fertiliser management combined with the correct light levels and temperatures should remove the need for PGRs. This variety is naturally compact. DO NOT USE
Pests:	Aphid, Whitefly
Diseases:	Powdery mildew, Botrytis

Plug Times:

3-4" (9-11cm) pot:	10-14 days from sowing to transplant
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Transplant to Finish:

Container	Plants/Container	Transplant to first fruit set (retail)	Total Crop Time
10" Pot	1 x plug	7-9 weeks	8-10 weeks
12" Pot	1 x plug	8-10 weeks	8-10 weeks

Crop times are based on optimum conditions. Alternative environmental conditions and cultural regimes can lengthen the crop times stated above.