

SUMMER SQUASH

CUCURBITA PEPO

PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

Size

1.0 – 2.5' high, 2.0 – 3.0' wide

Sun/Shade

Full Sun

Water

Medium

Maintenance

High

Life Span

Annual, Zone 2-11

Description

Cucurbita pepo is actually a large diverse species of vine plants generally divided into summer squash and winter squash. Summer squash varieties (think zucchini) are generally harvested and eaten as immature fruit (50 days) while winter squash (think acorn squash and pumpkins) are harvested and eaten at maturity (120 days). The fruits come in a large variety of sizes, shapes and colors and are edible as well as are the yellow blooms (July – August) preceding the emergence of fruits. These easy growing plants require plenty of sun and are sprawling vines that need plenty of room to grow making them good additions to larger gardens as well as open areas. These squash plants are sensitive to cold and should not be planted until after the last frost. They are easily grown from seeds and can be started indoors about 3 weeks before the last frost date and planted when the outside soil is at least 65 degrees F. These plants have multiple insect and disease problems. To help prevent rot, rest the fruit on mulch, straw or boards.

Source: [Missouri Botanical Garden](#), [North Carolina Extension Gardener](#)



Have questions or need help?
Contact us at GreenHelpLine@gmail.com.

