

1. Recommended varieties

- a. Charleston Grey
- b. Sugar Baby
- c. Sugar Delicata
- d. Farmers Giant
- e. Empire No. 2

2. Yield

15 to 20 tonnes/ha

3. Planting Time

April to September, during the cool season but can be grown all year round.

4. Seed Rate

1.5kg – 2.0kg/ha. Seedlings can be raised in plastic bags or seed can be directly planted onto prepared field.

5. Spacing

3metres between rows and 1m between plants within the rows.

6. Land Preparation

Two ploughing and two harrowing is



recommended for good soil tilth.

7. Germination

It takes six to 10 days for the plants to germinate after sowing.

8. Plant Management

Leave only 3 vines per plant and one fruit per vine for good quality fruits. Prune other vines.

9. Fertilizer/Manure

- Poultry manure: 10tonnes/ha. Mix well in soil 2 weeks before planting.
- N.P.K: 200kg/ha, basal at planting
- Urea: 100kg/ha side dress at 2 and 4 weeks after planting.

10. Weed Control

Hand weed or hoe when necessary. Mulching with black plastic or grass. This will protect moisture and also control weeds.

11. Pest Control

Aphids – spray Dimethioate at the rate of 15ml/15 litres of water (sold as Rogor).

Thrips – apply Confidor at the rate of 5ml/15 litres of water or sunchoropid at 15ml/15L of water.

Pumpkin Beetle – apply Malathion at the rate of 30ml/15L of water.

12. Disease Control

Powdery mildew, Gummy blight and Anthracnose:

Spray with Antracol at the rate of 30g/15L of water or use Kocide at 30g/15L of water.

Keep your crop free from insects to avoid spread of viral diseases.

13. Harvesting

It takes 70 to 120 days from planting to harvest, depending on variety.

14. Gross Margin

One hectare of watermelon will fetch income of \$10,000 to \$18,000. The cost of producing one kg of watermelon is about \$0.46 in the main season.

15. Food Value

Vitamin C





For more information contact: Ministry of Agriculture, Private Mail, Raiwaqa.
Phone: (+679) 338 4233 Fax (+679) 338 7157 / Website: www.agriculture.gov.fj
Facebook: Ministry of Agriculture Fiji Twitter: Fiji Agriculture
Email: agrihelp@govnet.gov.fj



Ministry of Agriculture

Growing **WATERMELON** *for Cash*

Farmer's Leaflet 2015