

BOTTLE GOURD

Bottle gourd is botanically known as *Lagenaria siceraria*. It is commonly known as *upo* in Tagalog. It is a widely grown tropical vegetable, which has high carbohydrate content. Oil can be extracted from the seed kernel and used as ingredient in hair care products.

SITE SELECTION AND SOIL TYPE

Bottle gourd requires well-drained and sandy loam soils for its good cultivation. It cannot tolerate high amounts of acidity, alkalinity, or salinity. The pH range is between 5.5 and 6.5. When soil conditions are not optimum, then production of female flowers is greatly affected.

GROWING SEASON

It can be grown almost in all climates, however, too much rainfall is not good. Optimum temperature range is between 30 and 35°C during the day. If temperature is very high, then more number of male flowers are formed thereby decreasing yield. Upo can be planted all year round but for optimum yield and profit, it can be planted from October to December and from May to July.



LAND PREPARATION

Prepare the field by cleaning, plowing and harrowing the field twice. Prepare bed 3.0 meter apart and 1.0 meter between hills.

METHOD OF PLANTING

Bottle gourd is often direct seeded like squash however, seedlings can also be transplanted. The distance of planting is from 3 to 10 meters. During wet season, plant the seeds on mounds and during the dry season in furrows with 2 seeds per hill. Thin-out weak seedlings 7 days after emergence and retain only one plant per hill.

WEED CONTROL

Weeds near the row of the plants can be controlled by off-barring or re-plowing 14 days after planting and hilling up 1 month after planting if un-mulched.



FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Type of Fertilizer	Rate of Application/ha.	Time of Application	Method of Application
14-14-14	2 bags	During planting	Basal
46-0-0	2 bags	30 days after planting	Side dress
46-0-0 + 0-0-60 (2:1)	2 bags +1 bag	45 days after planting	Side dress

IRRIGATION

Irrigate the field 14 days after emergence by flooding. Repeat irrigation every seven days throughout the growing season or as need arises.

INSECT PESTS AND DISEASE CONTROL

Pest	Control
Leaf folders	Methomyl
Yellow squash beetle	Deltamethrin

Disease	Control
Anthracnose	Captan

HARVESTING

Harvesting can be done when fruits meet the standard size base on the varietal characteristics.

The fruits are better harvested using sharp knives to cut the peduncle approximately 5 centimeters long.



For more information, write, visit, or call:
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