



Squash (*C. Moschata*): Butternut Early Remix

This early butternut variety was developed by the fine folks at Adaptive Seeds, who in an attempt to improve storability and flavour, grew all the early butternut varieties they could find and allowed them to cross freely. They began selecting the population for earliness, medium size and a classic butternut shape and released it as Butternut Early Remix. It's a diverse mix of early ripening butternuts, and a great project for folks that want to trial an earlier butternut for their farm!



Starting and Ending Population Size

Starting Population: 50 plants

Seed Harvest Population: Seeds should be harvested from a minimum of 20 plants

Before Flowering

Rogue plants for:

Low vigour (5-10% of population)
Growth-habit (should be vining)
Diseased or pest-affected plants

Early Fruit Stage

Select plants for:

Desirable butternut shape



Population Breeding

Butternut Early Remix is a population derived from freely crossing multiple different butternut varieties. This means that this is your own breeding project, and you can steer this population in whatever direction suits your farm's needs.

Fruit Maturity & Harvest

Select plants for:

Earliness/first mature fruits
Smooth tan exterior
Sweet taste and storage

Special Planting Notes

If you are growing other *cucurbita maxima* varieties, you either need to isolate the two varieties by 1.5km or hand-pollinate your squash to ensure varietal purity.

After harvesting the fruit, let the fruit ripen for 1-3 months before extracting seeds as they continue to draw nutrition from the flesh and mature.

DETAILED ROGUEING AND SELECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Before plants begin to flower: Off-type plants should first be rogued at the seedling or first true leaf stage. Pay particular attention to low vigour and off-type growth habit. Butternut Early Remix has a vining habit, so any bush type plants should be removed before flowering occurs.

Early fruit stage: Pay attention to the shape of the earliest fruits. Butternut Early Remix fruits have been selected for a stout butternut shape with a seed cavity slightly bigger than the neck, remove any fruits that do not exhibit that characteristic. As long as the population size is large enough, the appearance of an off-type plant after flowering is not a cause for concern as long as the off-type is removed promptly.

Fruit maturity and harvest: As with rogueing other crops, remember that occasionally a fruit will be deformed (usually for environmental reasons), in which case the fruit is still usable for seed provided that the other fruits borne on the same plant are true to type. Ripe fruits should have a smooth tan exterior.

In storage: As seeds continue to mature in storage, rogue out any fruits showing signs of mould, rot, or disease. Select for desired flavour, colour retention after storage, and yellowish-orange flesh.