



Squash (C. Maxima): Sundream

Don Tipping at Siskiyou Seeds is happy to share one of his breeding lines of stabilizing Sunshine (F1), a delicious orange skinned squash developed by Rob Johnston (Johnny's). A reddish orange-skinned squash, this variety produces 3-5lb fruits with tender, sweet flesh, and has been selected for productivity and flavour. Growers who pick up this variety can definitely expect some variability, but it is an amazing opportunity to select for fruit size, flavour, and yield.



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:

Round, smooth, squat/flat shape



Stabilizing a Hybrid

This is a segregating population derived from Johnny's Sunshine (F1) so expect a fair bit of variability. Treat it as a fun breeding project where you can try to stabilize it back to Sunshine, or a new variation of Sundream.

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.

Fruit Maturity & Harvest

Select plants for:

Reddish-orange exterior with white markings
Smooth exterior, very little lobing
Sweet taste and storage

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. Sundream 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. Sundream fruits have been selected for round, smooth, squat shapes, 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 be reddish-orange with white markings, have a smooth exterior and very little lobing.

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 orange flesh.