

Muskmelon: Wapsi Wonder (C. melo)

Seedling to flowering

Rogue plants:

Low vigour (5-10% of population)
Off-type growth (see below)



Flowering & fruit growth

Rogue plants:

Any signs of wilt or disease
Off-type vines or fruit



At Fruit Maturity

Select fruits:

Good flavour
Orange flesh
Early ripening

Starting & Ending Population size

Starting population size:

35 (Stable seed stock)

60+ (Poor seed stock)

Harvest population size: Fruits for seed production should be harvested from a minimum of **20 plants**.

Isolation

Isolate from other C. melo varieties by 1.5km (muskmelon, cantaloupe, honeydew etc)

A note about hand-pollination

C. melo is notoriously difficult to hand-pollinate as flowers are small and ~80% of female flowers naturally abort. If you do make an attempt, hand-pollinate a bit later in the morning than you would for squash to allow the pollen to warm up.

The 1st flowers to open on the vines have the best chance of producing fruit.

Once hand-pollinated flowers begins to develop fruit, remove flowers & fruits further down to increase chances of success.

Further Rogueing & Selection Information

Seedling stage until before flowering: Remove any plants with low vigour and slow growth in the early stages after planting. Observe vegetative characteristics and rogue out any off-type plants displaying different leaf shape, colour, and growth habit.

Early flowering and fruit development stage: At early flowering, the morphology of the undeveloped fruit should be checked. As fruits further develop they should be checked for trueness to type and off-types should be removed as necessary. Wapsi Wonder has been bred for wilt tolerance—remove any plants that show signs of wilt or other disease.

At fruit maturity: Slow maturing fruits should not be included in seed production and external morphological characteristics should be observed and off-types removed. Select fruit for netted skin and orange flesh, and sweet flavour. Wapsi Wonder matures in approximately 75 days.

Harvest melons for seed when they are completely ripe; when the rind near the stem indents with a gentle pressure, skin under the netting is turning yellow, and fruit slips easily from the vine. Melons can be tested for sweetness prior to seed collection.

Notes from stock seed supplier Sandhills Preservation Centre: *"The past few years I've stabilized the selection to this melon. It handles our sand well, can be planted as late as July 10 and still make tasty melons in September. Fruits are smallish - 2 pounds at best - somewhat netted and orange fleshed. I cannot certify it to be wilt tolerant, but it sure handles it well here." (Pledged as an Open Source Seed Initiative variety)*



***These are suggested tips and strategies for selecting a true to type Wapsi Wonder melon. You are welcome to look for other characteristics that you find appealing or suit your farm, market or growing condition. Please make note of it if you do so. ***