

Squash

Cucurbita spp. · *Cucurbit family*

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Annual, sown or seedling
MATURITY 80–110 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Deep, regular



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



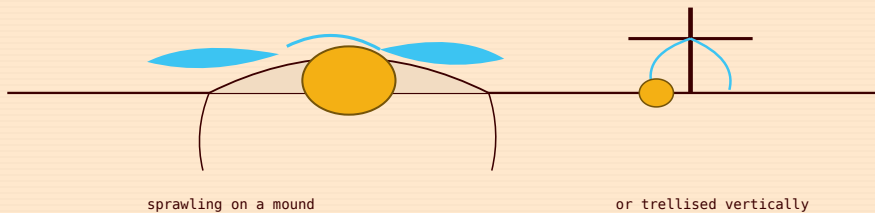
SPACING
1–1.5m mounds



DEPTH
2–3cm

01 Mound planting

Grown much like pumpkin — sown into a rich mound, sprawling widely unless trellised. Winter squash varieties store far longer than summer squash.



02 Planting

METHOD	Sow 3–4 seeds per mound, thin to the strongest 2.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained — dig in aged compost first.
TIMING	Sow after frost risk passes and soil has warmed.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Powdery mildew** — humid weather; improve airflow.
- **Pumpkin beetle** — hand-pick or net young plants.
- **Vine borer** — check the stem base for sudden wilt.
- **Blossom end rot** — irregular watering.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply at the base, avoiding wet leaves.
- Mulch heavily around sprawling vines.
- Hand-pollinate if bee activity is low.
- Support fruit on a trellis with a sling if growing vertically.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Skin hardens and dulls, stem browns (for winter squash); or picked young and tender (for summer squash).
METHOD	Cut with secateurs, leaving some stem attached.
CURING	Winter squash: cure 1–2 weeks in a warm spot. Summer squash: none needed.
STORAGE	Winter squash: cool, dry, ventilated, months. Summer squash: fridge, about a week.
PRESERVING	See Fermenting (fermented pickles) or Root Cellaring (storing winter squash and pumpkin) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Corn Beans Marigold	Potato	Rotate cucurbits on a 3-year cycle.