

Zucchini

Cucurbita pepo · *Cucurbit* family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Annual, sown or seedling
MATURITY 45–60 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Deep, regular



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



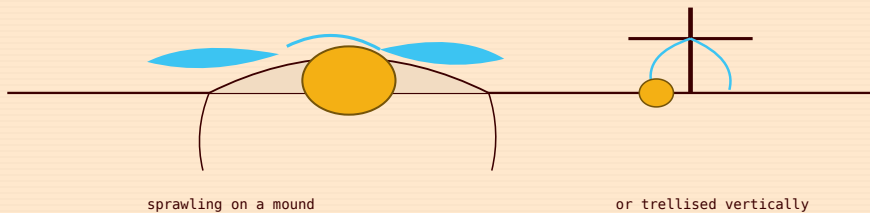
SPACING
90cm–1m



DEPTH
2–3cm

01 Bush habit, big appetite

Unlike sprawling pumpkin vines, zucchini grows as a compact bush — but it's still a heavy feeder needing rich soil and steady water to keep producing.



02 Planting

METHOD	Sow or plant seedlings into a rich mound.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained — dig in aged compost before planting.
TIMING	Plant 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** — white coating in humid weather; improve airflow.
- **Blossom end rot** — irregular watering; keep moisture consistent.
- **Vine borer** — sudden wilt; check stem base.
- **Poor fruit set** — low bee activity; hand-pollinate with a soft brush.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply at the base, avoiding wet leaves.
- Pick young and often — one missed fruit can slow the whole plant down.
- Feed every few weeks through the growing season.
- Hand-pollinate if fruit are forming but rotting at the tip (poor pollination).

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fruit reaches 15–20cm — pick young for best flavour and texture.
METHOD	Cut with a sharp knife, leaving a short stem.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge crisper, about a week.
PRESERVING	See Fermenting (fermented pickles) or Root Cellaring (storing winter squash and pumpkin) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.
RECIPES	Try our Zucchini Fritters — a way to use a glut.

06 Companions & rotation

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