

PUMPKIN

(Cucurbita moschata)

Pumpkin occupies a prominent place among vegetables in Meghalaya owing to its high productivity, nutritive value, good storability, and better transport qualities. It is used both in immature and mature stages as a vegetables. Its young leaves, tender stem and flower are also cooked and consumed. Yellow or orange-fleshed pumpkins are rich in carotene.



Cultivars

Arka Chandan, Arka Suryamukhi and Pusa Biswas are the recommended varieties for this region.

Climate and Soil

Pumpkin is a warm season crop but can withstand cool weather. The plant is also tolerant to partial shade. A temperature of 18-30 °C is found optimum for its cultivation. Pumpkin can be grown in various kinds of soil but sandy loam to loam soil is ideal. A well-drained field should be incorporated with organic fertilizer before planting. It does best at a pH of 6.0-6.5.

Field Preparation

The land should be thoroughly prepared by ploughing 4-5 times. FYM @ 25-30 t/ha should be mixed thoroughly in the field. Apply BHC @ 15-20 kg/ha to control termites and cutworms in the soil at the time of land preparation.

Seed Rate

6-8 kg/ha

Time of Sowing

The seed is sown during January to March and June to July in the plains and March-April in hills

Spacing:

2.5 to 3.0m (row to row) x 100 to 150cm (plant to plant)

Manure and Fertilizer

After adding FYM at the time of land preparation, full quantity of P and K and half of N are applied at the time of land preparation. The remaining N is applied in 3 split doses 20, 40, 60 days after sowing,

Irrigation

Summer crops require more frequent irrigation than rainy season crop. During maturity frequency of irrigation should be reduced.

Plant protection

Same as in Cucumber

Harvesting and Yield

The pumpkin fruits reach maturity 75-180 days after sowing depending on variety and season. They are harvested either in green stage or mature stage according to the demand of the market.

The average yield is 200-250 q/ha.