Safe Fertiliser – Crop Info

PUMPKIN AND SQUASH

***Cucurbita maxima* (Winter squash)**
***Cucurbita mixta* (Winter squash)**
***Cucurbita moschate* (Winter squash)**
***Cucurbita pepo* var. *pepo* (Field pumpkin)**
***Curcurbita pepo* var. *melopepo* (Summer squash)**
Origin: Central and South America
Edible Portion: Fruit

SOWING AND PLANTING

Climatic Requirements: Frost sensitive, warm season crops requiring seasonal temperatures of 18-25°C for best crop growth.
Preferred Soil Type: Fertile, well structured and well drained loams and peats. Light soils are required for successful early crops.
Seed Required: Vine types 2.0-5.0kg/ha. Bush types 4.0-6.0kg/ha.
Optimum Soil Temperature Range for Germination: 21.0-32.0°C.
Emergence Time: 3-12 days, optimum 5 days.
Plant Spacing: Trailing pumpkins – In-row 1.0-1.25m, between rows 2.0-2.5m. Bush pumpkins – In-row 60.0cm-90.0cm, between rows 1.0-1.5m. Buttercup type trailing squash – In-row 50.0-100.0cm, between rows 1.5-2.0m. Buttercup type bush squash – In-row 60.0-90.0cm, between rows 1.0-1.5m.
Seeding Depth: 25-30mm.
Plants per Hectare: Trailing pumpkins – 3,200-5,000. Bush pumpkins – 7,400-16,600. Buttercup type trailing squash – 5,000-13,300. Buttercup type bush squash – 7,400-11,100.
Method of Propagation: Export squash is sown in situ. Smaller areas of fresh market crops are usually hand sown. For early production seedlings can be nursery raised and transplanted into the field after the frost risk has passed.
Sowing Dates: Early crops – September to early October. Main crops – Late October to late November. Glasshouse propagation – August to early September.
Other Sowing and Planting Information: Do not sow crops in the field until the soil temperature has reached 16°C. True to type seed cannot be saved from field plantings unless they are totally isolated.

FERTILISER

Optimum Soil Test Levels: N = 100-150, P (Squash) = 55-75, P (Pumpkin) = 33-55, K = 15-25, Mg = 30-50, Ca = 10-15, Na = 1-10.
Base Dressing (kg/ha): N = 28.0, P = 50.0, K = 75.0. The base dressing is applied either prior to sowing and worked into the soil, or at sowing as a banded application below and to one side of the seed.
Side Dressing (kg/ha): N = 25.0. The side dressing is applied immediately before the plants begin to run. With early crops some extra nitrogen may be required immediately after germination to give the plants a boost.
Optimum pH Range: 5.5-6.8.
Lime Requirement: For pH correction only.

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PESTS AND DISEASES

Important Pests and Their Control:
Alphids – chlorpyrifos, deltamethrin, permethrin/pirimiphos-methyl, pirimicarb
Cutworm – esfenvalerate
Mites – dicofol
Whitefly – buprofezin, permethrin/pirimiphos-methyl, pirimiphos-methyl
Important Diseases and Their Control:
Angular leaf spot – cupric hydroxide
Anthracnose – mancozeb
Downy mildew – captan, chlorothalonil, metalaxyl
Powdery mildew – benomyl, chlorothalonil, chlorothalonil/thiophanate-methyl, dinocap/myclobutanil, penconazole, pyrazophos, sulphur, triadimefon, tridemorph, triforine
Note: Squash and vigorous pumpkins are not normally treated with insecticides and fungicides after they have begun to run unless powdery mildew becomes epiphytotic, in which case aerial application of fungicides is undertaken.

Recommendations:

As Following Page.....

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Pumpkins and Squash Program

Ground preparation:
Apply; 1 tonne/ha Lime **or** Liquid Lime @ 40lt/ha in 300lt/water
(**Optional**;8m³ Feedlot Manure/ ha) Or Alroc No3 @ 200kg/ha

Pre Plant
Apply 60 Kg/Ha Safe Coated Urea (optional this can be fitted in as Side dressing)
Apply 200 Kg/Ha NPK15.3.8 Supablend
Apply 10lt /ha Vital Activator (This is to lift the carbon level in soil, the energy)
Apply 6lt/ ha Vital Phos

Liquid Injection; Vital Phos @ 20lt/ha in suitable water application at planting

InCrop Fertiliser requirements:

Weekly topup;

Vital Mix @ 4lt/ha mixed into 200lt water/ha

Side dressing

Nitrogen & Potassium
Apply 60 Kg/Ha Alroc CBM With 60Kg/Ha NPK Supablend

Multi Nutrients:
5lt/ Ha Vital Mix in 200lt water as flowering starts
5Lt/Ha Vital K Blast (As Flowering Finishes)

The above mentioned application rates can be adjusted to what is economical. These adjustments may not provide the ideal nutrient ratios but should replace some of the nutrients that are removed by the crop. A Program should always be followed with soil and leaf testing and adjusted to suit your soil

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Disclaimer
The above program will be affected by soil variation, testing errors, seasonal factors and management skills. Any recommendation should be acted upon as part of an ongoing fertiliser program. No responsibility can be accepted for any of the above matters or other matters that are beyond our control.