



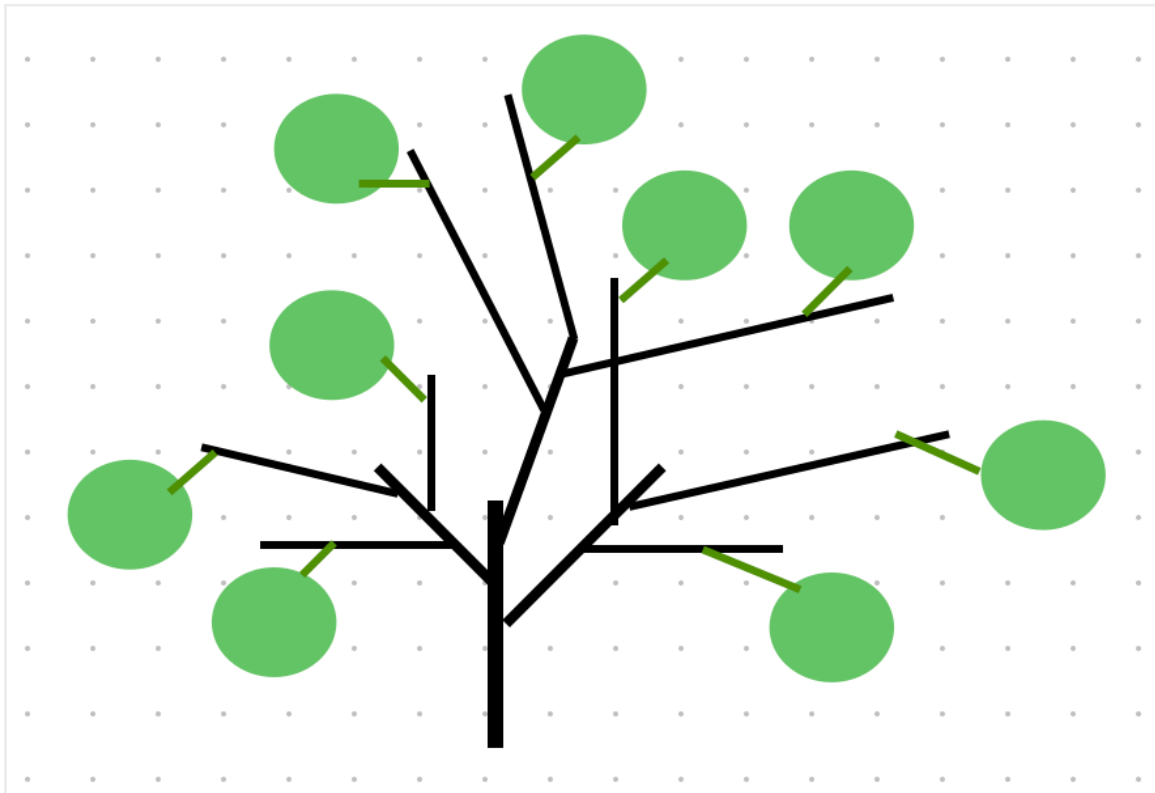
Seeking your kind suggestions on Watermelon Cultivation:



1. *Pruning:*

- The main stem should be pruned from the tip at 9 inches. Is 9 inches too short? Can you please share the technical aspects of pruning at 9 inches?

Picture below shows how to prune and retain one fruit per branch. This will result in uniform size, outside-inside colour, and sweetness.



What happens if we prune closer to the root? Should we remove male flowers if they appear?

9 inches is not a hard and fast rule; it is a regular distance that works best. Good pruning results in a lower number of male flowers. There is no need to remove male

flowers; they will shed off soon after pollination is completed.

- The first branch should also be pruned at 9 inches, allowing 3–4 branches to grow. Should we remove male flowers if they appear before the 9 sub-branches start developing, or is there no need to pinch early male flowers?

This question is answered above. Flowers that appeared on the stem (main) branch should be removed.

- For the second branch, allow a total of 9 sub-branches. On each sub-branch, we plan to keep one fruit.

The question is answered above.

My question is:

1. How many leaves are required for the growth of each fruit from these 9 sub-branches?

Leaves correlate with the demand created by the plant based on the required energy for maturing fruits. We shouldn't interfere with the sync.

Over-irrigation also increases vegetative growth because the plant is not getting enough minerals from the soil required to complete the recipe due to diluted water mineral solution. Increased leaf surface area

increases transpiration rate (uptake), hoping plants to somehow seek the deficiencies. A programmed recipe (95% from the atmosphere and 5% trace minerals from the soil) produces nutrition-dense and nutrition-diverse food that is highly tasty. When the soil system is not nature-based, imbalanced quantity and diversity of minerals requirements are not met; therefore, the fruit produced lacks the balanced nutrition required by our gut microbes for a healthy lifestyle. This is why conventionally produced produce is tasteless; we call it 'Phokki', like a broiler chicken.

2. At what point (after how many leaves) should we allow fruit development to optimize photosynthesis?

One healthy fruit should be kept on each branch; the rest should be cut off with a sharp-edged knife or scissors.

3. What should be the approximate length of the sub-branch that bears one fruit?

Length of the sub-branches should be kept for the vine to decide on the number of leaves that it needs, but there should be no fruit other than the one kept.

- What is the best time of day for pruning? Can you specify a time window, such as morning (5–8 AM) or

evening (4–6 PM)?

PQNK maintains soil temperature and the consistent ratio of air and moisture levels, which is important. The rest is as per convenience.

- What is the best harvesting time (in days), and how can we extend the plant's productive period?

These are two different questions, one relates to retention of freshness of the fruit (fruits should be picked early in the morning when the temperature of the fruit is lowest, even better if field heat is removed by dipping fruit in the chilled water. This way freshness can be maintained.) and the other question is to keeping vines productive even when temperatures rise (for this proper mulching and shade on vines in the afternoon will help. One can plant maize or any plant that can provide shade in the afternoon at a necessary distance).

- Should we leave a few plants to grow naturally, or can all the plants be pruned?

Learning comes when we compare options. During the transition phase, one should keep some plants/area under conventional

methods; this will strengthen the belief.

- Using this pruning method, will all 9 fruits on the plant mature around the same time, or will they ripen at different intervals? Will there be a harvesting window for selling the fruits, or will they ripen all at once?

About the same time, this is to ensure uniform size and fruit quality. To stagger the production, let us say for four months, one should keep spaces on the beds for planting at every fifteen days of intervals.



2. Mulching:

I have a limited supply of dry mulch. Can I grow fenugreek over the entire 2-bed area as per the PQNK plantation method?

Yes, this can be done, as said many times, live mulch is better than the dead. One has to make sure the live mulch plants don't override the cash crop plants.

My plan is as follows:

1. Initially water all A, B, and C furrows.
2. After 25 days, cut the fenugreek from the bottom, leaving the roots in the soil. Use the fenugreek leaves as green mulch.
3. Apply dry mulch (straw) on top of the fenugreek mulch.

4. After 25 days stop irrigation in the middle C furrows completely.

Since fenugreek helps suppress weeds, fixes nitrogen, and improves soil porosity through its roots, is this a good strategy? Or should I only plant watermelon as per PQNK guidelines?

My beds will be entirely new, not mature & this soil is rented & not organic its my first year just once I have done 45 days of Jute plant mulch during monsoon.

You should decide based on the available resources, how to follow the PQNK principles.



3. Shade:

You mentioned planting 30% corn for shading watermelon. Could you please explain:

1. Where to sow corn in the beds for shade & any direction of sunlight as per sun position?

Plant corn in a direction that provides shade in the afternoon.

2. What should be the distance between corn plants?

Two feet plant-to-plant distance on the sun side of the beds.

3. What is the irrigation method for corn in this setup?

Same as for watermelons. Maintain moisture in 30% of the soil pores. When all the PQNK

steps are carefully followed, water is stored and retained in the soil for a year around production without intermediate irrigations.

4. Is Okra can be grown for shade?

Yes, it may work better if there are creeper vine due to low height.



4. Trellis:

In one of your audio replies, you mentioned that watermelon can be grown on a trellis.

Can you provide details about the following:

1. What kind of bamboo trellis structure is required?

Better to have a permanent structure which can hold the weight and withstand wind velocity.

2. Any design suggestions as design which we use does not allow Tractor to come in future its kind of 5 years permanent structure so bed planter will not be able to go in trellis area so is there any temporary trellis structure?



It is the best model. Planting can be done with a dribbler or a VIPP planter. On the beds, various crops can be grown. The furrow size should be kept at around 13 inches for a tractor-less operation. The bed size can be increased according to the space required for

the crop plants and the growing style of horizontal or vertical.

3. What is the ideal distance between plants, and is the pruning method the same as in ground planting?

Plant-to-plant distance should be half to 12". Pruning technique will be the same.

4. How should heavy watermelons be tied to the trellis for support?

Holding net for each fruit.

I plan to plant watermelons on 2 acres using bamboo trellises.

5. Distance:

- Is a spacing of 18 inches between plants sufficient for 9 sub-branches to develop without overlapping with nearby plants' leaves, or should the distance be increased in ground planting?

24" for the horizontal and 12" for the vertical. Especially for the staggered production over a period.

- For trellis planting, how many rows per bed can be grown, and what should be the distance between plants?

It is a repetitive question. One row for the horizontal and two rows for the vertical.

Production of vertical will be four times the horizontal, and fruits will be spotless.



6. Irrigation:

Most watermelon videos & conventional method recommend frequent & more irrigation specifically in watermelon because of its water requirements.

It is a desert plant, its water requirements are minimal. On well-matured PQNK bed, irrigation may not be required. You have to maintain the moisture as explained above.

During fruiting, it is suggested to water more and stop irrigation one week before harvest. In flowing stage less water, can you clear my confusion.

Kindly understand the science: water is a nutrition carrier in addition to the evaporation required for cooling, not more or less. One cannot increase or reduce uptake of water-mineral solution with frequent irrigations. If water supply is not adequate, the plant will wilt and die. Excessive water dilutes the water-mineral solution and reduces mineral uptake for the plants, that affects the yield while promoting vegetative growth and infestation.

- Can you share PQNK recommendations for watermelon irrigation? The general PQNK guideline suggests irrigating only when the plant starts wilting. Does this apply to watermelon, or does it require

constant moisture?

Water management practice is the same for every type of plant, as explained in the below slide:

PEDAVAR
THE TRANSFORMATIVE PRODUCER

www.pedaver.com
facebook/pedaver

Transition from Irrigation regime to Soil Moisture Management (SMM)

1. Flood irrigation
2. Furrow irrigation
3. Sprinkler and drip irrigation
4. Raised bed irrigation
5. Soil Moisture Management - SMM

Periodical irrigations

Soil Moisture Management - SMM

Ecosystem Science

Sprinkler

Drip

Flood

Furrow

Raised-bed

Index

- Are there specific stages when watermelon needs more or less water?

I also want to plant muskmelon. Is the irrigation quantity and frequency the same for muskmelon and watermelon? Since muskmelon is slightly less watery than watermelon, what are your suggestions?

7. Grafting:

In one of your audio replies, you mentioned that

expensive hybrid watermelon can be grafted onto cheaper desi watermelon rootstock.

Can you please share the grafting method?

It is the same as grafting fruit trees; follow the same procedure.



Tomato Cultivation:

Can I grow indeterminate tomato varieties without a trellis using the same method suggested for cucurbits family plants, by not watering the middle furrows (C furrows)?

Follow the vertical plants, and you can intercrop tomatoes in the available spaces.



PQNK 3 by Pedaver

Aamir GE P, Ag Student Muhammad Saeed Sahbaz Studying In China, Anand, A

Farmer Gaubharat Organic

MW Marianne Julia Wortel



Seeking your kind suggestions on
Watermelon Cultivation.pdf • 12 pages



Sir, I have no words to express my gratitude.

Your understanding of farming is truly exceptional, and I believe you are a gift from God to humanity and nature.

You generously spend your valuable time answering each of my questions with such depth and clarity, and I am overwhelmed by your kindness.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your contribution to nature is priceless, and your guidance is helping us overcome our mental blocks.

PQNK is not just a farming technique—it is a revolution in agriculture.



8:02 AM