

Saving Seeds for Cucurbits (squash, melons, cukes)

In order to save seed, select only one variety from each box ("Group") to plant!

Group A <i>(Cucurbita pepo)</i>	Group B <i>(Curcurbita moschata)</i>
<p>Summer squash: Yellow crookneck or straightneck Zucchini, Cocozelle Scallop/patty pan</p> <p>Winter Squash: Acorn Spaghetti</p> <p>Gourds: many ornamental types.</p> <p>Many (not all) Pumpkins including: Cinderella, Big Tom, Jack O'Lantern, Jackpot, Small Sugar, Sugar Pie and Connecticut Field.</p>	<p>Winter Squash: Butternut squash</p> <p>Pumpkins: Cheese Dickinson Field Golden Cushaw Kentucky Field</p>
Group C <i>(Cucurbita maxima)</i>	Group D <i>(Cucurbita mixta)</i>
<p>Winter squash: Hubbard</p> <p>Ornamental squash: Alladin Turk's Turban</p> <p>Pumpkins Big Max King of the Mammoths Mammoth Chile Mammoth Prize Atlantic Giant</p>	<p>Pumpkins: Green-Striped Cushaw Japanese Pie Tennessee Sweet Potato White Cushaw Mixta Gold</p>
Group E <i>(Cucumis sativus)</i>	Group F <i>(Cucumis melo)</i>
<p>All slicing and pickling Cucumbers (except Armenian cucumber): Beit Alpha cucumber Lemon cucumber</p>	<p>Cucumbers Armenian (Snake cucumber or Serpent melon)</p> <p>Melons All muskmelons Casaba Honeydew</p>
Group G <i>Citrullus lanatus (aka vulgaris)</i>	Group X Frankenfruit
<p>All watermelons All citrons</p>	<p>Pumpchinis, Honeycumpers & Hubkins... what you get when you mix anyone who shares a box!</p>

The funny family dynamics of squash and melons:

Cucurbits are notorious cross-pollinators. However, it's easy to save seed from these greats if you know the secret to their tricky family dynamic. Cucurbits have both male and female flowers on the same plant, and rely on insects for pollination. *They will cross-pollinate within their own family group, but not between groups.* So to save seed that is delicious and true to type, limit your selections to one candidate per family. Further, check with neighbors about what they're growing. Insects will cross-pollinate these plants up to a half mile. (The good news is that the different family groups aren't speaking to each other, so no need to worry about them crossing family lines!)