

## Watermelon Grower's Chat - 2013-01-29

UserName	Message
Barbeetoo	OK so this week I have gotten several emails and
tallcorn	and back to you
Barbeetoo	full of questions so I thought I would introduce some topics for discussion and
cntryboy	hey folks
roger	hi all
Barbeetoo	everyone can answer and then we will move on to the next topic. Sound okay?
Trifive	for those of you that have the bartoli seeds what color are they
curtlave, team extreme	sounds great
Andy S	GO GO
Handyhomegrown	brown
curtlave, team extreme	enuff with the pleasantry,, .. go sue
Barbeetoo	OK so the first topic is soil prep. What kind of soil prep is involved with growing a giant watermelon?
Marvin	soil test
Andy S	leaves
Barbeetoo	what kind of ph are we shooting for?
Barbeetoo	Hi dig n dug, pull up a chair
Handyhomegrown	7.5
tallcorn	I think sand with om
Marvin	6.5
curtlave, team extreme	7.8 is to high
Marvin	6.5 to 7
fisherray	evening all
Barbeetoo	So does everyone try to get a soil test each spring?
curtlave, team extreme	thx marvb
curtlave, team extreme	yes,
Marvin	fall and spring
ottercreek	soil test in fall - amend- soil test spring
Barbeetoo	what about manure? Do melons like manure?
Handyhomegrown	7 is good shoot to for
Handyhomegrown	aged
Marvin	Then mid summer
curtlave, team extreme	are they hvy feeders?
Linus Van Pelt	not like a pumpkin
smoky mtn pumpkin	manure = good, no manure before its time ! ;)
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	do you ever do tissue test's ??
Trifive	is the cow manure you get at wal mart any good
Marvin	manure in the fall
Linus Van Pelt	nooo
Barbeetoo	Now I hear people talk about sand.Is sand a good thing to put in the melon patch?
Andy S	noooo
tallcorn	I think to much om the more stump rot - that is just me
Linus Van Pelt	lots of salt
smoky mtn pumpkin	walmart= no.
Marvin	1 year or older
Barbeetoo	Hi to all come on in

pg3(ashton)	hey andy
curtlave, team extreme	ash,, be quiet,,
Linus Van Pelt	Trifive check craiglist in your area
Barbeetoo	So it seems that most of you do manure, soil testing, and you want your ph in the 6.5-7.5 range
Handyhomegrown	bagged manure is a joke
Marvin	thats what i like
lbright	Hi Susan
tallcorn	Hello Lloyd
Barbeetoo	Do you try and balance your soil about like the pumpkin growers do?
Marvin	Hi Lloyd
ottercreek	Is high organic matter a benefit or not?
tallcorn	yes
Marvin	try to stay in line with test
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	we treat all our soil the same
Barbeetoo	About how high do you like your OM?
tallcorn	8%
Handyhomegrown	10%
Marvin	as high as i can get it
curtlave, team extreme	ok,, 6-8 Om here
ottercreek	what percentage of organic matter is to high?
Handyhomegrown	30% to high
curtlave, team extreme	dont know over 12
Linus Van Pelt	It really depends on your soil type correct...Sandy and good drainage can take more om
Marvin	in sand it goes down fast
pumpkin carver	om breaks down faster in sand than in loam or clay??
lloyd's	MR BRIGHT what is your om in your melon patch
Barbeetoo	I have about 3 % OM Handy, that made me think whoa
curtlave, team extreme	hvy clay here 7 %.. fall sample
Marvin	fall test 5%
Barbeetoo	my eyes about popped out of my head ;)
curtlave, team extreme	7.0 oops
Handyhomegrown	30% in sandy soil 20% in clay
brotherdave	3-4% here
Tree Doctor	hi Sue
Barbeetoo	Do you think we might get more disease with the higher OM or not?
pumpkin carver	chris kent, what is your om??
ottercreek	what type irrigation system is best for melons?
matt-man	13.3 on here
rick.j	hi everybody
Handyhomegrown	yes for sure sue
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	im 12-13% here
Marvin	30% to 20% sounds good
Handyhomegrown	drip tape here
curtlave, team extreme	, wouldn't depend on the area and temps?
Barbeetoo	OK lets talk about watering.
Marvin	over head and ground
Barbeetoo	I have used overhead and drip. I think I might like the drip better
Handyhomegrown	drip is less wear on the leafs

Marvin	if i had power i would drip
ottercreek	water do better at ambient temps?
Barbeetoo	What is the benefit of each do you think?
pumpkin carver	i have heard melons dont like their leaves wet, does that mean overhead is bad ??
Handyhomegrown	less disease
Handyhomegrown	edwards does overhead
ottercreek	does it take less water with drip than overhead?
Marvin	cann't see that it hurts mine
brotherdave	drip, going to 18" centers 2013
Barbeetoo	Do you stay away from the stump?
tallcorn	yes
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	we do
Jed	hi all
Handyhomegrown	yes 1 1/2 feet
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	and we cover our stumps
Marvin	not after the plant is big
brotherdave	12" out
Barbeetoo	OK thats good info to know
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	going to 18"?? what were you at in 2012
brotherdave	12
Barbeetoo	Hi Fish and Jeff
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	questtion just answered lol
Marvin	also cover stump
Jeff Reid	hi
Handyhomegrown	24 in centers
Barbeetoo	I never thought to cover the stump
Handyhomegrown	12 inch circle
Marvin	helps
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	keeps it dry
Barbeetoo	Yes I can see where it would
Handyhomegrown	no stump covers here
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	we treat our melons like our pumpkins
Barbeetoo	OK next topic I was asked to bring up is seed selection. How do you choose a seed what do you look for in a seed etc
tallcorn	mark you are in green house, we are out side
Lew Dog	How much do you water
Handyhomegrown	still gets wet screen house
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	cross
Barbeetoo	sorry Lew that is a good question
Marvin	genetics and what they have done
curtlave, team extreme	new at this ,, ,, plz explain,, seed selection,, say 140 somebody or 186 somebody,, to grow,,
tallcorn	I use at least 15 gl a day
Barbeetoo	OK is there someplace a grower can go to find out what a melon has done like the aggc or are we just looking everything up
tallcorn	I use the gpc
Handyhomegrown	I use 1/4 to 3/8s a day
Marvin	there will be working on it
curtlave, team extreme	thx

Trifive	<a href="http://giantwatermelongrowers.com/giant-watermelon-growers/state-watermelon-records/">http://giantwatermelongrowers.com/giant-watermelon-growers/state-watermelon-records/</a>
Barbeetoo	Is there a difference between a light colored seed and a dark one?
Marvin	thats a good start
lbright	Both colors work fine
Handyhomegrown	yes one is lighter then the other
Linus Van Pelt	Sue one is dark and the other is lot :)
Marvin	just color
Linus Van Pelt	light
Handyhomegrown	lol
Barbeetoo	LoL
smoky mtn pumpkin	i don't feel seed color makes a difference.
Trifive	I have started a wide variety in my collection and yes every melon has different seed colors
tallcorn	no, it is in the genetics
smoky mtn pumpkin	Its the genetics, not the color
Barbeetoo	OK thats great. Do you think one color is easier to germ over the other?
Handyhomegrown	no
smoky mtn pumpkin	no
tallcorn	no
Marvin	its where they came from
Handyhomegrown	i prefer brown seeds, but for no reason
Trifive	seed color makes difference when all seeds from a watermelon you buy are brown and you know that melon only had white seeds
Barbeetoo	OK all good info that newer growers wanted to know
curtlave, team extreme	how do u germ them,, like kin seeds or other?
Marvin	no
Big City Grower	as long as in my germ bin it dont matter on color
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	like kin..dirt and chamber
cntryboy	what temp?
Barbeetoo	Thats the next topic I have. How do you like to germ a watermelon seed?
curtlave, team extreme	thx
smoky mtn pumpkin	They need heat 95-100 to germ good.
Marvin	same
Handyhomegrown	90 degrees in dirt
Orange with Envy	hey
Trifive	not to damp will rot easily
Handyhomegrown	yes to wet is a killer
tallcorn	90 but not to wet
curtlave, team extreme	thx otis
Barbeetoo	About how long should we wait for it to germ before we know there is a problem?
Handyhomegrown	5 days
Trifive	also make sure to consider light source to much light will make long skinny stalks
Barbeetoo	OK so after 5 days, do you start digging around?
Marvin	should pop up in 3
Marvin	yep
Handyhomegrown	yes very carefully
Barbeetoo	I gotta admit I am a digger
Marvin	agree

Trifive	make sure to plant seed with wide part facing u[p
Boom Boom	Greetings Earthlings
lbright	The temp must be continuous to get up in 72 hrs
brotherdave	I like baggie/towel. No digging needed
Handyhomegrown	use tweezers and gently pull seed
Jeremy Robinson	hi all
Randytcat	hello all
Barbeetoo	What temp do you use Dave for the towel baggie method
Boom Boom	Hi Ray, Susan
Handyhomegrown	at 95 they pop up faster
brotherdave	92-98 on top of incubator
Barbeetoo	then after it germs you will put in the soil?
Barbeetoo	OK last question then I'll stop bugging yous
Barbeetoo	Sometimes the seed coat gets stuck
Marvin	you are doing good
Barbeetoo	I have beheaded many a plant trying to remove it. What causes that?
tallcorn	I let Mother nature take it off
smoky mtn pumpkin	surgery needed. have to cut the sides first before trying to remove the coat.
Handyhomegrown	use tweezers & pull off from both sides as to not damage cotts
Handyhomegrown	2 pair of tweezers
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	Hi my name is Tina and Im a peeler
Barbeetoo	Do you think germing in the dirt causes more stuck seed coats or less?
cntryboy	do they get stuck alot?
Marvin	some
curtlave, team extreme	so ur telling us ,, that sanding and filing is good ,, but assist with hard shell removal??
Handyhomegrown	yes they can
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	just like pkn they can get stuck
smoky mtn pumpkin	yes curt
Barbeetoo	I kind of think mine might get stuck more often because I germ at high temps and get faster germination. I dont know that to be fact, but suspect it
pumpkin carver	do you file edges of seeds like we do pumpkins??
Handyhomegrown	yes curt
brotherdave	In dirt as soon as I see root, lay on side
VTJohn	sorry I have been away but have you talked pollination yet?
Marvin	if heat is to low
curtlave, team extreme	thx.. in the journal
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	not yet john
Barbeetoo	OK now you have given me something to think about and I will do some experiments
lloyd's	not yet john
smoky mtn pumpkin	curt also put a drop of water on the shell for 30 min before removal ;)
Handyhomegrown	no pollination yet john
VTJohn	thx
Barbeetoo	Ok next topic comes from a cooler climate grower
curtlave, team extreme	thx smokey
Barbeetoo	The question is do the northern growers start their seeds earlier and leave in pots longer or is that a myth
matt-man	they don't grow here b2.....lol
Handyhomegrown	mine are in pots 2-3 weeks
Marvin	what SMP said works good

cntryboy	how big of a pot?
Barbeetoo	When do we want to get the melon plants in ground and when should we start the seeds
Handyhomegrown	i start april 13th
curtlave, team extreme	sue whats th length of time fer a normal,, melon to grow.. not the biggies,, 100 days i have read ,,
Handyhomegrown	i put in ground weather permitting early may
Barbeetoo	I have never been able to get one past about 85 days Curt so I can't answer that
Handyhomegrown	90 to 110 days
VTJohn	are they as hardy as a pumpkin plant regarding cold temps
lloyd's	how about heating cables
curtlave, team extreme	thx sue ,, i'm just very curios to the fact ,,
cntryboy	any problems with becoming root bound
Marvin	there was some that grew 110 days
Handyhomegrown	no melons dont like it under 50 degrees
tallcorn	I t ry to get into ground around May 20 to 26
Barbeetoo	What do you think the ground temp needs to be before setting out?
Marvin	Mid May to late May
Handyhomegrown	60
tallcorn	Temp - ? if it is to cold they just set there
Barbeetoo	Seems to me that if the ground is too cold the melon just pouts
Boom Boom	it does. My melon pouted until it died.
pumpkin carver	any tricks to get them run when its cooler??
Barbeetoo	LoL
Handyhomegrown	if sunny they go in early no sun leave them in pots
Boom Boom	Death by Pout
curtlave, team extreme	so at least 60 plus .. to start with,, 24/7??
Barbeetoo	OK next topic is a biggie
Handyhomegrown	ground cables judy
Handyhomegrown	yes curt
Barbeetoo	what kind of disease control program do you use and how soon do you start it?
Handyhomegrown	agrifos end of june early july
tallcorn	safer soap for mites
Barbeetoo	and thats it?
lbright	It varies by regional needs. Clemson U. program is excellent for the south.
Barbeetoo	So just go to their website Lloyd?
Handyhomegrown	yes dont have much problem with disease on melons only kins
Barbeetoo	Do you have a favorite fungicide?
lbright	Clemson University Spray Program
Barbeetoo	Thanks I will check that out
Handyhomegrown	actinovate is used also
cntryboy	<a href="http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/Pages/Plntpath/IL86.pdf">http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/Pages/Plntpath/IL86.pdf</a>
lbright	Daconil is the universal one and is resistance free
Barbeetoo	Do any of you treat your plants prior to setting out for disease or use any inoculants?
brotherdave	Admire
curtlave, team extreme	thx ,, loyd
tallcorn	captin
lbright	Rootshield or Companion
Marty S.	finally made it

Handyhomegrown	i kill all weeds within 50 feet of garden
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	merit
Marvin	i do orthan
Barbeetoo	I really like the companion. I have not used the rootshield
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	just printed that link... thanks!!
Handyhomegrown	rootshield did nothing for my kins lost them all the year i tried it
Marvin	safer soap --aphids
smoky mtn pumpkin	merit works great on aphids here too
curtlave, team extreme	LADA imidaclorpid stuff here ,, no issue;s so far
Barbeetoo	At what point would you start spraying for bugs? Do you try to prevent or wait until you see symptoms?
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	prevent
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	try to but 10,000 bugs live here
Barbeetoo	Do you use anything in the planting hole?
Handyhomegrown	no spraying in the melon house,but will be growing outside this year
brotherdave	Could it be spider mites?
Barbeetoo	for either bugs or disease?
Handyhomegrown	great white Tichoderma
curtlave, team extreme	sue ,, doesnt , time of yr and seasonal change's make that call??
tallcorn	to prevent then site more of same and also mix your spray up
Handyhomegrown	trichoderma
Barbeetoo	I try to get spraying as soon as I can
lbright	Water with merit when transplanting prevents lots of insect problems but keep the solution mixed since it settles out
Barbeetoo	I think easier to prevent probs than to treat
curtlave, team extreme	i'm a bit leary of trichoderma .. mark
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	when plants are young spray around planting area
cntryboy	do you spray the melon too?
ottercreek	should your spray program start when melon starts to vine?
Handyhomegrown	why curt?
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	no before..
swaintech	sue
Marvin	melons don't like spary
curtlave, team extreme	read in can invite deases to the plant at givin times of yr
Barbeetoo	OK Marvin, expand on that please
pumpkin carver	so, if they dont like sprays are you better drenching with systemics??
big moon	hello
Barbeetoo	you got my interest ;)
cntryboy	so what do you cover it with to keep it dry?
Marvin	spary hurts the skin
curtlave, team extreme	also slows the attention to the pyleom,, with season,,
Handyhomegrown	I think the trichoderma is the key to my healthy season in 2012 on all plants I used 3 different kinds
Trifive	what about sven
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	the melon has a shade structure just like kin
Barbeetoo	the skin of the melon you mean?
Marvin	skin will turn black
brotherdave	NO SEVEN
Handyhomegrown	Biotamax, Actinovate & great White
curtlave, team extreme	just my thoughts ,, mark,

cntryboy	how far is shade from melon?
matt-man	7 very hard on leaves
tallcorn	I cover with a sheet
cntryboy	and isnt the melon right in the plant
brotherdave	sheet here
no see (Lee)	hi all
Barbeetoo	So other than Merit, what are some sprays you like for bugs
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	so what do you use for cuc beetles instead of sevin?
Handyhomegrown	thats cool you could be right ,but my first good year with kins since 2003
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	we cover with sheet and structure 100 temps here plus we have shadenetting
Marvin	sheet here to
Barbeetoo	I think we all like Merit
ottercreek	talstar
Barbeetoo	Do you try to mix it up and rotate sprays for bugs?
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	yes
Marvin	if it works for you it is right
curtlave, team extreme	i rotate sprays.. yes
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	correct marv
tallcorn	rotate
Handyhomegrown	have a good night yall this was good stuff thx susan
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	What do you all do when it rains right after you spray?
Barbeetoo	Take care Mark and thanks for coming
sambo	rotating is best so bugs dont build a resistance
tallcorn	spray again
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	spray again next day?
Marvin	spary the next day
brotherdave	Yep
matt-man	nuttin' lee
tallcorn	I stay on my weed every day
VTJohn	do the melon leaves burn as easily as ags?
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	not from heat
tallcorn	no
VTJohn	from the talstar?
ottercreek	I use it at half strength John
giantwatermelongrower	what do use for weed control around the watermelon plants
VTJohn	thx frank
Barbeetoo	I was just letting them finish up Otis
Barbeetoo	OK now weed control. To fabric or not to fabric
Marvin	pull by hand
sambo	what time of day do you spray your plants?
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	pinestraw helped with the weeds this year with a layer of weed cloth underneath
tallcorn	I use round up
Marvin	i will use this year
Barbeetoo	Raise your hand if you use fabric
brotherdave	fabric
ottercreek	spray early in morning sammie
Barbeetoo	I love the fabric personally
Marty S.	about half
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	going to use this year



giantwatermelongrower	where can you find the fabric
Barbeetoo	To me its right up there with sliced bread
giantwatermelongrower	does homedepot have it
brotherdave	lowes-home depot
tallcorn	have not used it as yet
Marvin	i like bread
Barbeetoo	any nursery sells it or Kmart or anyplace really. Its called landscape fabric
Lew Dog	Trying fabric this year
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	sam we spray just like kins evening..but that is just us
Barbeetoo	I think I pulled 3 or 4 weeds last year
tallcorn	mybe I will try it this year
Trifive	did your mellons roots go thru the fabric
Orange with Envy	does the plant root through the fabric ?
Cornhusk	no vine burying?
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	sue how did you keep it tacked down
Barbeetoo	Yes
Marvin	i pulled 10000000.
Barbeetoo	I do not bury vines
giantwatermelongrower	do you just lay it around the plant or how to use it
Barbeetoo	I used those fabric staples
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	we had to put pinestraw and bricks down to keep the wind from blowing it up
brotherdave	rarely root though
Barbeetoo	I had one sheet of fabric 15 x 60
lloyd's	could you use sraw
lloyd's	straw
tallcorn	that is why I have dot used it
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	we did pinestraw not haystraw
Trifive	i read straw rots
Barbeetoo	I got some good rooting going
curtlave, team extreme	i would like to hear what mr .. bright has to say
Marvin	i think straw would rot vines????
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	pine worked for us
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	we grew a 239 with straw
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	maybe we got lucky
lbright	Curt I just use a herbicide
Cornhusk	use rooting hormone along vine?
don young	pinestraw=pine needles?
Barbeetoo	I did not but hmm
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	yes don
giantwatermelongrower	whats a herbicide
matt-man	no pine needles in my patch
lloyd's	how thick on pine needles
curtlave, team extreme	thx,, mr bright ,, .. its appreciated,, lol
Barbeetoo	are you talking about a grass spray Lloyd?
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	3-4 inches..now this is what worked for us..
sambo	anyone use a preemergent herbicide?
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	has anyone used pinestraw and had rot
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	not haystraw

lbright	Poast is a grass spray that is used over the top. I start with Command and Sandia
brotherdave	I have Sam. still had pigweed
Barbeetoo	let me write that down
Marvin	i don't think we have pinestraw up here??
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	oh ok marv
Ken D.	hello
giantwatermelongrower	bright is that for weed control
lbright	You can get baled pinestraw at nurseries and it does not rot easily
Hilltopper	Hey folks
Barbeetoo	Dave do you pull weeds or use herbicide?
curtlave, team extreme	lets move on,,
Barbeetoo	OK real quick I want to give the
tallcorn	thanks
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	ok how do you move inbetween vines to get them babies out
Barbeetoo	GWG a chance to talk about their club
brotherdave	No pulling, barrier & round-up
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	without stepping on them
Barbeetoo	Anything you want to say Bryan?
Marvin	slow very slow
Barbeetoo	Thanks Dave
curtlave, team extreme	lets move this ,,
smoky mtn pumpkin	have it narrow enough to reach with only one step ! of course i take big steps
Barbeetoo	Wait I should say this.....and now a word from our sponsor
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	Folks need to renew their memberships
smoky mtn pumpkin	lol
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	We have added a new message forum for members that 2012 members can use until June
Barbeetoo	When is the cut off?
Marvin	we have 43 members sined up
smoky mtn pumpkin	i just kind of slip a foot in under some vines
curtlave, team extreme	gentleman,, its ur run now ,, smoky ,,and others ,, git r dunb
Marty S.	Yes I need to renew
tallcorn	and lets do some bidding in our auction - some great seeds !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Marvin	That's ture
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	It's a great forum, I hope everyone gives it a try
smoky mtn pumpkin	Those are some great seeds at cheap prices !
Barbeetoo	Alright, everyone got that?
Marvin	The best seeds in the world
Marvin	Thanks to all that has bid
Barbeetoo	OK next topic. Plant size and training vines
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	We are going to have RTI as a main sponsor this year, just working out the details now
Barbeetoo	oops sorry ;)
curtlave, team extreme	got the chit in the written joral,,
tallcorn	what about sq ft of plant
smoky mtn pumpkin	one of those seed lines will set the new WR next year !
Barbeetoo	Excellent guys!
Marvin	Thank you smoky
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	Thanks for putting this together Susan

tallcorn	what ever I hope it is mine :o)
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	FAT or LONG
Trifive	okay can I ask a question
Marvin	290 to 340
Barbeetoo	Welcome. I have learned a bunch myself
smoky mtn pumpkin	fat
Barbeetoo	Sure Otis. then we'll go to the next topic
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	fat
lbright	Fat
brotherdave	Fat
tallcorn	yes FAT
Marvin	Yes great job Susan
Barbeetoo	Wait till you hear the final question ;)
Trifive	for you guys that use fabric, what is the name brand fabric or any details about it so i can get the kind that roots can penetrate
ottercreek	fat-long-wide and tall lol
Barbeetoo	I dont know the name but I like the woven fabric and not the plastic kind
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	we didnt use the cheep stuff or the expensive in the middle price range
Trifive	that's good to know
Barbeetoo	some is plastic with little holes. That always gets crinched up here and weeds come thru it
Spence	dont use the cheap fabric...thats what i learned this year :]
Barbeetoo	Thats just my preference
Trifive	congratuations to frank mudd for having the biggest mellon in the usa this year
giantwatermelongrower	congratulations frank
Marty S.	dues payed now
Marvin	top 4 new state records
BPMailey (Team Lunatic)	Thanks Marty!!
Barbeetoo	Plant size, training vines, how far from the stump to set the melon etc
matt-man	less than 24 hours to get your raffle tickets to as drawing will be held here in chat tomorrow night at 8pm eastern
matt-man	<a href="http://www.bigpumpkins.com/msgboard/ViewThread.asp?b=26&amp;p=468092">http://www.bigpumpkins.com/msgboard/ViewThread.asp?b=26&amp;p=468092</a>
Barbeetoo	Yes Bravo Frank and the entire top 20
ottercreek	thanks
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	10 ft
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	main vine
Marvin	I like 9' or less
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	vines train themselves..lol
Barbeetoo	What is the least amount you would set and the furthest
tallcorn	If I have enough plant don't care 10 ft to 15
Marvin	9 to 12
cntryboy	i havent done this before, but I know melon vines aint the same as pumpkins, which one is the "main vine"
Barbeetoo	good question Cecil
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	just like kin they shoot out sidevines..fingers
Marvin	The 1st vine is the main
tallcorn	the first vine that comes out
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	but more of them
giantwatermelongrower	how do you train the vine
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	main will be first
cntryboy	ok thanks

tallcorn	some just let them go
Marvin	later you will get one more that will come stump
Barbeetoo	I think Chris first coined the term finger vines?
ottercreek	use bamboo stakes to train vines
Barbeetoo	They remind me of a wagon wheel Cecil
Marvin	same here
rick.j	can you grow a big one on a finger vine
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	our smaller ones have been on fingers
Marvin	if it is not to far out
pumpkin carver	more than one main vine??
Barbeetoo	What is the biggest melon grown on a finger vine? Anyone know?
brotherdave	Don't think I've grown one on a main
Marvin	my 255
Barbeetoo	Me either Dave. I am lucky to get 3 females on the main
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	main does seem hard to set here too
Marty S.	I am same way hard to get one on main
Barbeetoo	the whole year LOL
rick.j	how far out was it marvin
Marvin	no main vine melons here
Marty S.	usually second main
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	so does it matter?
Marvin	7' from stump
no see (Lee)	do you control pollination????
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	doesnt seem to
tallcorn	yes
ottercreek	how many square feet of vine do everyone grow per plant
Marvin	Yes
Barbeetoo	I think if you can get one on the main, you might have something special
Barbeetoo	I have always used 150 sq ft. I'm going to bump that up this year
tallcorn	15 X 25
Marvin	160 to 180
giantwatermelongrower	how do to hand pollinate
Barbeetoo	Try for about 300ish
Marvin	15 x 25 works good
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	very carefully they are small
Spence	how much area around stump do you guys amend?
PumpkinEngineer	evening everyone
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	sue we might need another night
brotherdave	20 x 20 here amend everything
Marvin	use cups over F & M pollinate about noon
tallcorn	I do the compleat garden
Barbeetoo	I think you might be right ;)
Barbeetoo	I do the whole melon patch
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	one melon or two on a plant
tallcorn	one
ottercreek	I leave it up to clyde lol
Spence	why the whole thing what am i missing?
Marvin	one
Barbeetoo	One per plant here

The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	one here
tallcorn	roots going out
brotherdave	100 if you count suckers
tallcorn	:o)
brotherdave	try for 1
Barbeetoo	yes those sneaky culls that like to hide until they are about 50 lbs
giantwatermelongrower	after you choose which one to leave on plant do you cut the other
giantwatermelongrower	watermelons
Marvin	Yes
giantwatermelongrower	when the main melon is growing if you see other melons developing
rick.j	how do you choose which one to keep
Spence	just remembered stumps last year roots traveled a very very long way from stump
Marvin	i go 10 days before i pick
giantwatermelongrower	after cuttint the other do you keep cutting them off
Barbeetoo	Yes I cut babies about every 2 days
brotherdave	compare same day of age measurements
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	yes we would get 20-30 a day per plant
Barbeetoo	The last topic I have is about grafting. Plenty of you grew some grafted plants. What do you think the pros and cons are for those of us who did not try a grafted plant?
rick.j	do most people pull flowers after they have a set
napagrower (Andy)	hi
Barbeetoo	Chris what are your thoughts?
Trifive	who has grafted and what method did you use to do the graft please
Marvin	we have 5 sined up to graft so far
Barbeetoo	I saw several grafted melons at KY
Barbeetoo	I was very impressed with how solid they seemed to be
Barbeetoo	Do you think that could be due to the grafting?
Trifive	I am practicing grafting this winter so i will graft this year
Barbeetoo	No one?
Marvin	i don't think so, but i don't know
ottercreek	is grafting a bad word?
pumpkin carver	lol
Barbeetoo	One grower I talked to said she felt the grafted melons grew a lot faster
Trifive	any one else gonna try it this year
Barbeetoo	I wonder if that would help get a set earlier?
JEB37355	I don't think so, I believe if you live in a goo climate for growing, and don't have disease problems, it' would be a waste of time.
Marvin	No just new
Trifive	I don't care if grafting is a bad word as long as I grow a giant :)
Barbeetoo	OK now I am going to open the floor up to the rest of you and ask questions because my fingers are tired ;)
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	What seed that you have grown would you recomend to someone else try?
Marvin	It's not bad Tr just new
Trifive	remember when computers cam out everyone said i hate them amchines
Barbeetoo	So if I didnt' get yoru question answered earlier go for it
Cornhusk	were both Bartolis grafted?
Trifive	yes
Trifive	I ahve all three
tallcorn	255, 267 287 and the 291

The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	165b Cantrell
Marvin	Yes and they are members
Cornhusk	Question: ever try cytokinins like the Chinese exploded their pumpkins with?
tallcorn	yes 165-B Cantrell
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	What are you thinking about growing this year?
Marvin	i am going with 199.5 Mudd and 3 more
JEB37355	267 Edwards is one of the best plants I've grown. I had a 194 and a 187 on same plant. It was still putting on melons in October.
rick.j	does any one use hay or straw for mulch,
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	our own 239
Trifive	I got the same bottle gourd seeds that bartoli used to graft to alswo
Marvin	also a 267 and a 255
tallcorn	267 and my 181 (291X255)
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	What do you put under melon
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	sand here
Cornhusk	oops, ever try cytokinins like the Chinese exploded their watermelos with?
tallcorn	Frank and Tina can I get some of your seeds ?
Marvin	this sand
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	yes you can email us f.finders@hotmail.com
Barbeetoo	while Im thinking about this, do we want to try another chat next month?
Barbeetoo	Not me John
Marvin	OOOOOO yes
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	gpc says open but it is selfed our 239
tallcorn	we can try
buckeyblondie424	yes sue would be nice
roger	sure sue
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	yes sue
cntryboy	yes sue
Barbeetoo	OK if you have a topic you want to see discussed email me
zepfan(gary)	hey rick
Spence	last tuesday of every month?
rkbrownii (Rick)	hello
Barbeetoo	or if you want a different format. Just give me some ideas plase
brotherdave	Cooks. Plug trays. But I liked what Jake was using in the news letter
giantwatermelongrower	can anyone make a youtube video to show how to hand pollinate watermelons
Marvin	Did you like the news letter??
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	we will this season
Barbeetoo	that would be great for me too giant as I have never been able to do pollinating myself
roger	what about a pumpkin forum too?
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	we did pkn last season so will do melin this season
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	melon
Barbeetoo	I did one pollination year last year and the cup blew off about 5 hours later in a storm LOL
rick.j	do you pick tertiary vines off
Marvin	some
Darren C	that must of sucked Sue
Barbeetoo	I dont think I could do two a monthy
Barbeetoo	Roger but maybe someone else would step in and offer
Barbeetoo	Im just rusty Havent hosted a chat in about 5 years now LOL

The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	What do you use to keep melon vine even with melon
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	or just let hang
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	we used bricks last year
tallcorn	and to all a good night
Barbeetoo	Good night thanks for coming
bcbf ( Gary)	how much room for each plant
Barbeetoo	Tina I have never had a problem with that to be honest. I keep pulling the melon back
pumpkin carver	thanks for the chat people,,,enjoyed listening and learning
Barbeetoo	Thank you guys for coming!
Barbeetoo	15 x 20 or 25 seemed to be the general size Gary
ottercreek	good job sue
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	ok maybe next season keep main straighter
Barbeetoo	and all of you. Really good questions tonight
giantwatermelongrower	thanks susan could there be another chat to go over more topics for watermelons
Barbeetoo	I think so
Marvin	we all do about the same
Barbeetoo	Yes marvin I noticed that too
giantwatermelongrower	thank you for all the help from all the growers today
Darren C	how about tomatoes?
Barbeetoo	Great minds think alike I guess ;)
The Cooks (Tina and Frank)	;) )
Barbeetoo	Haha Darren if I did tomatoes I'd not let anyone else talk LoL
Barbeetoo	Thank you again Ken for letting us have this
Marvin	See you next time