

# WATERMELON

## Dataset

**Name:** Watermelon

**Scientific Name:** *Citrullus lanatus*

**Cultivation Characteristics:**

**1. Climate:**

- The ideal temperature for watermelon growth is between 25°C and 35°C during the day.
- The plant requires a minimum nighttime temperature of at least 15°C to avoid growth slowdowns.
- Exposure to temperatures below 10°C can cause irreversible damage.

**2. Sunlight:**

- Watermelon requires a strong intensity of sunlight for healthy growth and good sugar production.
- Watermelon plants need at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight per day.

**3. Soil Type:**

- The ideal soil for watermelon should be well-draining, with good structure and water retention capacity.
- The soil pH should range between 6 and 7.
- Sandy or sandy-loam soils are preferred to promote proper drainage.

**4. Irrigation:**

- Watermelon requires adequate irrigation for optimal growth.
- During the active growth phase, irrigation should be regular, keeping the soil moist but not waterlogged.
- Gradually reduce irrigation when the fruits are mature to avoid excessive water that may dilute the flavor.

**5. Fertilization:**

- Before sowing or transplanting, apply slow-release fertilizer with a balanced formulation of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium to improve soil fertility.
- During plant growth, apply nitrogen-based fertilizers every 3-4 weeks to support vegetative development.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions to properly dose the fertilizer.

**6. Weed and Disease Control:**



- Keep the cultivation area free from weeds that could compete with watermelon for nutrients and water.
- Monitor the plants closely for signs of diseases such as root rot, powdery mildew, or alternaria leaf spot.
- Apply targeted phytosanitary treatments in case of infestations, following the manufacturer's instructions and respecting withholding periods.

#### **7. Growth Control:**

- Watermelon may require growth control to avoid excessive vegetative development at the expense of fruit production.
- You can practice pruning leaves and lateral shoots to promote better exposure to light and air circulation.

#### **8. Pollination:**

- Watermelon is generally pollinated by insects, especially bees.
- Ensure a favorable environment for pollinator insects, for example, by growing attractive flowers nearby.

#### **9. Harvesting:**

- The maturity of watermelon can be assessed by observing the hardness of the skin, color, and the dull sound produced by tapping.
- Use a sharp knife to cut the fruit from the plant, leaving a small stem attached.
- Harvesting usually takes place when the fruits reach maturity, which varies depending on the cultivated variety.

#### **10. Characteristics:**

- High water content (approximately 92%)
- Low-calorie content
- Good source of vitamin C and A
- Rich in potassium and magnesium
- High presence of lycopene (potent antioxidant)
- Natural source of citrulline
- Possesses anti-inflammatory properties
- Promotes cardiovascular health
- Contributes to eye health
- Supports the immune system
- Promotes regular bowel movements