

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing gourds

Gourds can be often used as a natural source of décor during the fall months. Ornamental gourds come in all colors and sizes, and can even be made into birdhouses. Gourds are a member of the squash family.

To plant:

Gourds can be planted directly in the garden in hills or rows. Plant after the last spring frost. For hill planting, sow five seeds per hill with hills spaced 4 feet apart. For planting in rows, sow seeds 5 inches apart in rows set 5 to 10 feet apart. The less overcrowding allows for larger gourds to be grown. Once seedlings appear on the hills, thin to three plants per hill. Gourds prefer warm weather, and although they are used as decoration during cooler months, they do not like frost. A late spring frost when planted can kill the seedlings unless covered.

To grow:

Gourds like full sun and plenty of water, though some gardeners say gourds grow best by neglect, which means to plant them and leave them alone for the season. They also grow well if placed near a fence or trellis, as they are vining plants.

To harvest:

Gourds can take anywhere from 90 to 130 days to harvest based on the variety grown, with hard-shell varieties taking longer to mature. They are ready to harvest typically after the first frost in the fall, and when the stem on the gourd has browned. Gourds should be hardened off before harvesting, which is done by ceasing watering and fertilizing. To harvest, include as much of the stem as possible. Trim it to the desired length later.



[Small Mix Gourd seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

What gourds crave:

Gourds are heavy feeders. Prior to planting, add manure or compost to the soil. Once the gourds are established, adding fertilizer may not be necessary but for those gardeners who wish to do so, fertilize with a water-soluble, low-nitrogen fertilizer, such as 5-10-5. High-nitrogen fertilizers encourage leafy growth.

Where to buy gourd seeds:

Urban Farmer sells many different varieties of gourds in all shapes, sizes and colors. Check out our website at [ufseeds.com!](http://ufseeds.com)



100%
Non-GMO Seed



One Day
Shipping



100%
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