

# BUSHEL

## Gourds

This best-selling gourd produces a lovely green fruit that grow up to 2 feet across. These gourds are commonly used for a plethora of art projects and/or for storage purposes.



## NOTES

### VARIETY INFO

**Botanical Name:** *Lagenaria siceraria* "Bushel"

**Plant Dimensions:** 5 feet

**Days to Maturity:** 90 - 130

**Zone:** 4-12

### SOWING INFO

**Sow Outside:** When the soil warms to 70 degrees F, plant 5 seeds per hill, 1" deep, with 5' spacing; later, thin to the strongest plant. Keep the soil evenly moist. When the vines begin to develop, either provide a trellis or lay down mulch to keep the gourds from contact with the soil; too much soil contact can weaken the shell, distort the shape, and cause rotting.

**Start Inside:** In shorter growing seasons, start gourd seeds indoors in peat pots 3-4 weeks before the last frost. To speed germination, soak the seeds overnight.

**Days to Emerge:** 7-10 Days

**Seed Depth:** 1"

**Seed Spacing:** 36-48"

**Row Spacing:** 48-60"

### GROWING INFO

**Harvesting:** Late in the summer, the stem and leaves of the gourd will wither and turn brown; cut off the gourd, leaving about 2" of stem. Wash it with a solution of white vinegar water to deter mold. Place them in a warm, dry location on a screen so that every side of the gourd has good air circulation. If the gourd begins to rot and shrivel up, throw it away; surface mold is normal. Large gourds may take up to six months to dry - when completely dry, they will be extremely lightweight and the seeds will rattle inside.