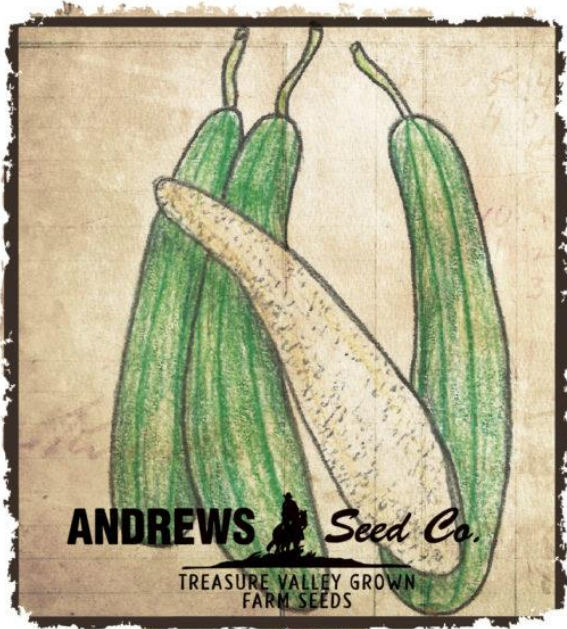


Luffa

Gourds

You may be asking whether or not this is the gourd used to manufacture luffa sponges. Yes, they do! Preferring full sun, this gourd produces green fruit that can get up to 2 feet long. 120 days to maturity.



NOTES

VARIETY INFO

Botanical Name: *Luffa aegyptiaca* "Luffa"

Plant Dimensions: 48-60"

Days to Maturity: 90 - 100

Zone: 3-7

SOWING INFO

Sow Outside: After the last frost when the soil reaches at least 70°F. Sow 2-3 seeds per space/hill, 36-48" apart, in rows 48-60" apart.

Start Inside: 3-4 weeks before the last frost. Sow 2-3 seeds per cells/pots, thin to the strongest seedling. We like to use individual biodegradable paper, peat, or cowpots because it provides the least amount of stress to the roots when transplanting. Transplant after last frost when the soil warms to 70°F. Space 36-48" apart, in rows 48-60" apart.

Days to Emerge: 7 - 14 days

Seed Depth: 1"

Seed Spacing: 36-48"

Row Spacing: 48-60"

GROWING INFO

Harvesting: Harvest in the fall after a few frosts. Leaves and stems should be brown and dried and skin color faded. Require a long drying period; 3-6 months in a dry area with good ventilation. The gourds should not be touching each other. Check often for soft or rotten ones, discard them, and if mold forms, wipe it off. When the seeds rattle inside and feel light, they are dried.

Fruit: Green fruit up to 2 feet long.