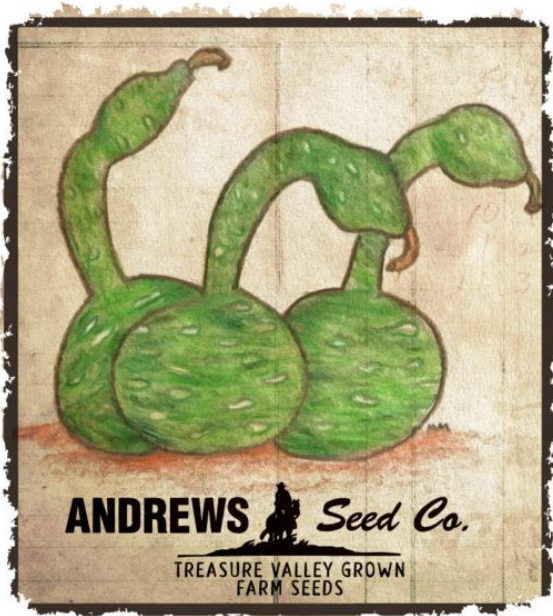


SPECKLED SWAN

Gourds

An heirloom, open-pollinated gourd variety that resembles a swan sitting on the water. These gourds have an enlarged bottom which looks like the body of the swan, an elongated neck which can be up to 12" long, and an enlarged portion at the stem end that looks like the swan head.



NOTES

VARIETY INFO

Botanical Name: *Siceraria* "Speckled Swan Gourd"

Plant Dimensions: 96 – 144"

Days to Maturity: 90 – 130

Zone: 3-10

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: 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. Plant the seedlings outdoors in rich soil and full sun after the last spring frost.

Days to Emerge: 7-14 days

Seed Depth: 1/2"

Seed Spacing: 18-24"

Row Spacing: 5-6'

Thinning: Not necessary

GROWING INFO

Harvesting: Late in the summer, the skin of the gourd should feel extremely hard, too hard to pierce with a fingernail. Leaving the gourds on the vine until the stem and leaves of the gourd begin to wither and turn brown is also a good indication of ripeness. Cut off the gourd, leaving about 2" of stem.

Fruit: The deep green fruits, speckled with light green speckles, weigh about 3 lb.