

SQUASH Descriptor Form

(Form created by *Seeds of Diversity Canada* for *The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security*.)

Please observe several squash plants in the same bed/row. Please use a separate form for each variety.

If you cannot answer any of these questions, just leave them blank

For questions asking for averages, please take 10 measurements from different plants. See chart on last page.

Variety name _____

☐ **Variety name is unknown**

Observer _____

Location _____

Population size How many seeds did you plant in total? _____

Germination rate What percent of the seeds germinated? _____

Final Population How many plants did you harvest seeds from at the end of the season? _____

Dates

Date when you sowed the seeds? _____

Date when 50% of the seeds germinated? _____

Date when the first male flower opened? _____

Date when the first female flower opened? _____

Date when the first fruit was ready to harvest for market? _____

Date when first fruit was ready to harvest for seed? _____

Rogueing for Seed Production

Rogueing should be done periodically throughout the season especially:

- At the seedling stage for lack of vigour
- As plants grow for off-type foliage
- At flowering for off-type flowers
- At fruiting for off-type fruits
- At harvest for ability to mature fruit/dry down

For squash, characteristics to look for when rogueing include:

- Before flowering select for seedling vigour, leaf size, shape, colour and vine length
- Approximately two weeks after, select for fruit shape and fruit colour
- As fruit reaches marketable size select for trueness to type for fruit size, shape and colour
- Throughout the growing season remove any diseased plants

****The best time to rogue for off- types is before flowers start to appear. After flowers appear rogueing should focus more on fruits and seeds***

Early/ Mid-season

Roughly how many plants were removed after rogueing for seedling vigour? (Typically remove about 10% of weakest seedlings and any seedlings showing signs of disease after germination)

_____ (# plants removed) or _____ % of plants removed

Is this a "bush" variety (compact, short vines) or a "vine" variety (long spreading vines)? bush vine

How vigorous is this variety? (Remove slow growing/poor quality plants)

very weak weak normal strong excellent

Flowers

What is the main colour of the flowers? (Rogue for uniformity if saving seeds)

white pale yellow lemon yellow deep yellow or orange-yellow other

What is the average length of a flower, measured from base to tip, on closed flowers that are ready to open?

_____ cm

What is the average width of a flower, measured from the outermost diameter of an open flower?

_____ cm

What colour are the anthers (pollen-bearing structures inside the male flower)?
(observe flowers that are just opening or ready to open)

Fruit

What is the shape of the fruit?



Globular (round)



Flattened



Disk



Oblong Blocky (cylindrical)



Elliptical (Oval)



Acorn/Heart Shaped



Pyriform (Pear-like)



Dumbbell



Elongate Forms



Turbinate Superior



Crowned



Turbinate Inferior



Curved



Crooked Neck



Do the plants and fruit appear to be uniform? (Remove underdeveloped fruits from seed harvest population)

yes no

What is the squash's main exterior colour at harvest? (if more than one colour, indicate the main colour)

gray white orange tan green

Does the squash have spots of colour on it?

not spotted or slightly spotted many spots

What colour is the flesh inside the squash?

yellow yellow-orange pale orange medium orange dark orange light green

What is the average thickness of the flesh, from the skin to the seed cavity? _____ cm

What is the average length of a fruit at harvest maturity, from base of stem to blossom end? _____ cm

What is the average diameter of a squash measured at the widest point? _____ cm

Is the fruit ribbed or round in cross-section? (Rogue for uniformity)

not ribbed or very slightly ribbed somewhat ribbed pronounced ribs

Late Season

What is the average length of a mature leaf, measured from the base of the leaf to the tip? _____ cm

What is the average width of a mature leaf, measured from the widest point? _____ cm

Seeds

What colour are the seeds? _____

What is the average length of a seed? _____ mm

Approximately how many fruits were harvested for seed production? _____

What is the total weight of seeds harvested from this variety? _____

Disease

Are there any signs of disease on the plants or fruit? (if so please take a picture and include a brief description)

Yes (picture) No

Based on your knowledge and growing experience please rate this variety on the following characteristics on a scale from 1-5 (1 being very poor, 5 being excellent)

Productivity (how much/often did plants produce fruits): 1 2 3 4 5

Uniformity of fruit ripening (across entire plot):	1	2	3	4	5	
Flavour:		1	2	3	4	5
Disease resistance:		1	2	3	4	5
Uniformity of fruit size:	1	2	3	4	5	
Uniformity of fruit shape:		1	2	3	4	5
Suitability for your location/climate:		1	2	3	4	5
General customer appeal (i.e colouring/size)		1	2	3	4	5
Efficiency of picking		1	2	3	4	5
Ease of transport (i.e. bruising etc.)		1	2	3	4	5

Would you want to grow this variety again?

Yes

No

Please list any pros/cons related to growing this variety.

Pros

Cons

	Leaf Length	Leaf Width	Flower Length	Flower Width	Flesh Thickness	Fruit Length	Fruit Diameter	Seed Length
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

Please write any notes or special observations that you would like to mention. Thank you for your help!