

How to grow Watermelon in your own backyard

Background information:

This is from Tonga and although watermelon did not originate from Tonga but they do use it for a famous watermelon drink. But I would think it would be cool to grow your own watermelon in your own backyard. You share with your friends and family and you can say I grew my own watermelon. You can only plant the seeds in spring.

Materials:

1. Watermelon. (you can eat it and get the seeds from it)
2. Milk powder.
3. Paper towel.
4. Air tight container.
5. Fridge.
6. Water.
7. Dish soap.
8. Planting pots (You might not need them)
9. Sellotape.
10. Envelope.
11. Soil.
12. Fertilizer.
13. Warm weather.

Steps:

1. You can get a seed from your own watermelon you eat, but you would have to wait until next spring to plant them as it would be too late because they take time to grow and they need warm weather. Although you can go out and buy some watermelon seeds if you really want to.
2. After you have your seeds you can't just let them sit there and dry out and have mold on them. You must soak the seeds with water to get all the sugar from the watermelon that they were once inside of them. Also put a small drop of dish soap. After they have been soaking take the seed out of the liquid and rinse them. Dab them dry and lay them out on tissues, cloth or paper towel not touching each other. Get the seed to have enough time to dry, for about a week.
3. After a week to get dry, get a container that doesn't let any air in. (Airtight) Put your seeds in an envelope very carefully. Then get a paper towel and put two decent size spoonfuls of powdered milk into the paper towel. Fold the paper towel up a sellotape it so it doesn't leak the milk powder. The milk powder is used to take up any liquid or moisture that forms in the container. Then put it in the fridge.

4. Until it is spring again you can take the container out, but do not open it! Wait for the container to slowly warm up and then you can take the seeds out. After you have taken the seeds out, make sure to plant them where the soil is warm, so they can grow. Keep the ground watered (Well watered) and fertilized. If your whether isn't so warm and the ground is still cold. You can plant your seed in a pot, in your house and make sure the soil is warm for it. When planting, plant 4 - 3 seeds on top of each other. Bury the about 1 inches deep. Keep the pot next to a window that the sun comes through so it can get warm. If it's a nice day you can move them outside. After the plant has popped and it is warm outside you can plant them in a sunny area. (Optional)
5. The watermelon can take up to 80 days to grow.
After the watermelon has grown, you can tell when it is ready to come off the vine. You can tell if it is ripe by being all green and it has stripes, that a normal watermelon would feature. Lift it off the ground and see where it was resting. It should be a patch (shouldn't be that big)that doesn't have any green on it, if it is a creamy white or yellow it is probably ripe. Also the vine could be starting to shrivel up it probably means it is ripe.
6. Now you can enjoy your watermelon with family, friends or simply by yourself.
ENJOY :)

