Growing our past…..

…..to preserve our future.

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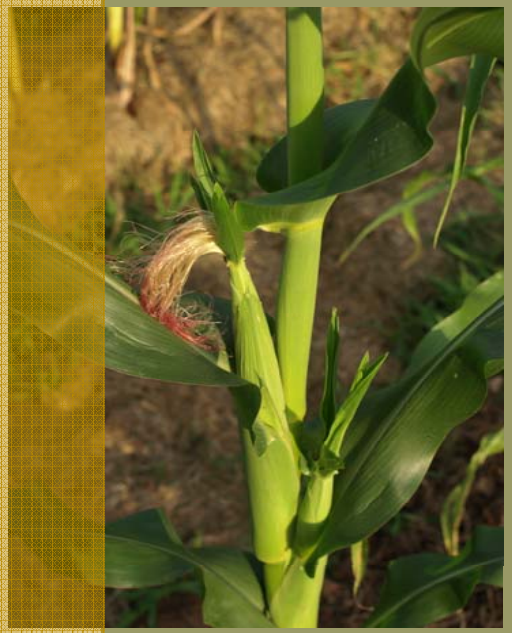

Cherokee Nation Seed Bank Planting Guide

Planting Guide

Remember that all of the crops contained in our seed bank (beans, corns, gourds, squash, tobaccos, etc.) are Warm Season Vegetables. These species require daytime temperatures above 60°. They prefer summerlike weather with temperatures between 70° and 90°. The young tender sprouts cannot tolerate any frost. Their growth may also be stunted by even unseasonably cool weather. Full sun exposure is important; anything less than 10-hrs of sun/day will yield poor results.

When to Plant

Seed germination is based mainly upon soil temperature and moisture. Thus, your garden's soil has to be sufficiently warm and dry enough to work. For most of the CN Seed Bank Crops, a good average planting schedule would be about 2 weeks after the last average spring frost (this date varies by region of course).

How to Plant and Grow

Moisture - Do not plant seeds in waterlogged soil…too dry is better than too wet (please note that tobacco requires near maximum soil moisture)

Seed depth

- Crops – 1"- 1½"

Tobacco – ⅛" (generally these plants are started indoors in temperature controlled, very humid environments)

Seed spacing

- Beans and Corn – 6"
- Gourds and Squash are usually planted in mounds. A good mound size is 2' diameter with a height of 6". Plant 3 seeds in the mound about 2" apart.
- Tobacco seeds are usually started in peat pots in a controlled environment…about 3-5 seeds per pot. All but the best sprout is clipped and the pots are spaced at about 12" intervals.

Germination (in optimum soil temps)

- Beans – 6-14 days
- Gourds and Squash – 4-12 days
- Corn – 6-14 days
- Tobacco – 3-6 days

Growing season

- Beans – 60 days
- Gourds and squash – 50-100 days
- Corn – 60-90 days
- Tobacco - 40- 80 days

Miscellaneous

- Beans
  - ◊ will require a trellis or some type of climbing aid for them to grow up/upon.
  - ◊ different types can be grown together without cross-breeding issues.
- Corn – allow 500' between different varieties of corn to avoid cross-breeding
- Gourds and Squash - allow 500' between different varieties of gourds and squash to avoid cross-breeding
- Weeds – all crops require aggressive/preventive weed control when young. The more weed free your garden is kept, the better your crops will perform.
- Excessive heat will curtail the growth/production rate of all crops.