

# Calabash or “Bottle Gourd”

*Lagenaria siceraria*



## General Information

- Edible annual
- Sun Exposure: Ideally 8 hours of sun a day, so direct light
- Water needs: An inch a week
- Cold Tolerance: Optimal temps are 24-27 degrees Celsius
- Days to harvest: 100-180 days, if you can't estimate when they're ripe leave them alone.
- Harvest season: Summer

## Planting Guide

- It is best to start these plants indoors and transplant, though it is also possible to direct sow. Start 4 weeks before last frost date.
- Transplant when they are several inches tall after hardening off. See propagation care guide for instructions on hardening off transplants.

## Care Guide

- Bottle gourds prefer well draining, acidic soil. Use compost or mulch to enrich the soil for the seedlings.
- If fertilizing, use a balanced 10-10-10 fertilizer if you're unsure about the soil health and nutrients.
- To increase the number of gourds or the odds of getting a fertilized gourd on the vine, you can hand pollinate the female flowers using the male flower's pollen. It's best if the male flower is fresh, and the female flower is typically only open for 1-2 days so the window for self-pollination is short. Below are pictures of the male and female flowers for identification.



Sources:

<https://www.evergreenseeds.com/bottle-gourd/>