

# Winter Squash Seed Harvesting

## Growing and Harvesting Winter Squash Seed

NDSU Extension – Cavalier County

### Tips and Tricks

Needs warm soil to germinate.

Seeds are mature when the squash is fully grown and a little color change has occurred.

Let squash sit in a cool dry place for at least 20 days before removing seeds.



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April 2026

### Planting Winter Squash

Be sure to follow the planting instructions on either the original seed packets or the seed envelopes checked out from the Cavalier County library.

### In-Season Considerations

Allow five to six feet between hills. Thin to the best two or three plants per hill on plants are established. Keep different varieties at least ½ mile away to avoid cross pollination.

### Harvesting Winter Squash Seed

- Leave at least one squash on the vine until a slight color change on the rind (skin) occurs.
- Pick the squash once that has happened and let it sit in a cool, dark place for at least 20 days so seeds continue to ripen.
- Cut the squash in half.
- Scoop out the seeds, cleaning the pulp off of them.
- Wash in a colander or strainer to remove any remaining pulp. Soak seeds for a few hours if needed, to loosen the remaining pulp.
- Lay seeds on a tray in a single layer to dry thoroughly.
- A suggested minimum return amount is 1/4 teaspoon.

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