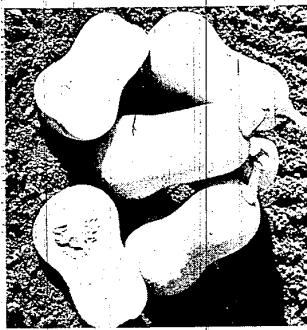


Squash Family: Easy And Fun To Grow



Squash is one of the easiest families of vegetables to grow in your garden -- and what fun they are to grow, too.

Native to the American continent, squash were a food staple of the Indians, and in Europe today most families have never even seen a squash, much less tasted one!

Squash are very easy to grow. The seeds are large and easy to handle -- like pumpkin seeds. Also, they like to be sown directly into the garden after danger of frost. They germinate quickly -- usually

within 10 days -- and they grow with ease.

Squash come in many different shapes and sizes, but they are all divided into two distinct groups -- summer and winter squash. The summer squash grow quickly, have softer fruit and should be eaten immediately as they are picked. In fact, the more you pick the more fruit will keep growing.

Zucchini, patti-pans, crooknecks and straight-necks are all examples of summer squash.

Winter squash have hard outer skins, they take longer to grow, and the fruit can be stored for long

periods for eating during late fall and winter.

Butternut, Hubbard, acorn and buttercup are examples of winter squash.

Don't be fooled by the outer appearance of some squash. Many are a dark unappetizing green, but the interiors are golden yellow and full of delicious flavor.

Others like the crooknecks are warted and misshapen -- but again the creamy yellow interior when cooked and served with butter is a gourmet's delight.



THESE EARLY CROOKNECK squash are just the right size for picking. The exterior skin is golden, and the interior flesh is creamy yellow, tender and delicious, especially when cooked and served with tomatoes.



PATTI-PAN SQUASH are shaped like flying saucers. The exterior can be white or yellow according to variety, and they are best eaten when young and tender -- about an inch across. Left on the plant some will grow to the size of dinner plates, and they make interesting Halloween decorations. Patti-pan squash grow on bushy plants and do not take up much room in the garden.

BUTTERNUT SQUASH must remain on the vine until fully mature. They are best gathered before fall frosts, leaving part of the stem attached to the fruit. They are best stored over winter in a dry place, and prefer a cool temperature between 45 degrees and 55 degrees. Butternut squash are best sliced lengthways and cooked until tender with the seeds removed. Exterior color is buff-brown with orange interior. They are delicious cooked and served as Thanksgiving -- or anytime as a substitute for potatoes, even as "French fries."

Swim Pool Registry Benefits Consumer

A national swimming pool registry program launched last year is providing potential pool buyers with the important consumer information required to make an intelligent buying decision, says its sponsors, the National Swimming Pool Institute.

"Buyers who select a pool registered under this new program know that they are getting a pool which meets or exceeds important industry minimum design standards," explained William Baumann, NSPI's president.

These industry standards, under constant review by a special NSPI committee, are formulated to help guide the individual pool contractor as well as to protect the consumer.

"Prior to launching the pool registry program," Baumann noted, "we, as an industry, have had no way to enforce compliance with our standards or of letting consumers know that such standards existed."

Heavy emphasis in the program and in the standards is placed on certain key dimensions of a swimming pool.

"For example," Baumann said, "we have classified all residential pools into five types, based primarily on the width, length and depth of the pool. Diving boards are similarly rated and installation instructions closely defined."

"This insures that a diver isn't getting too much spring from the board and diving into too little water for his own safety."

"The program also enforces other important design criteria relating to factors like the degree of slope from the shallow end of the pool to the deep end, the minimum depth of water,



A whistling noise that occurs whenever a faucet is turned on indicates trouble within the faucet. This generally is followed by a vibrating noise.

Often there is nothing more to repair than a worn or loose washer. Take the spindel out and inspect it. Replace the washer with a new one. Tighten the screw that holds the washer in place.

Hearing Test Time Is Here
May -- which is Better Hearing Month -- is an excellent time to make certain you and each member of your family has an annual hearing test say hearing conservation officials.

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circulation rates and such," he said.
Operation of the program is simple. The pool contractor participating in the program installs at pool side an attractive and permanent plaque featuring a registry number and identification of the pool type.

He completes the necessary forms and sends them to NSPI's independent registry agent, a nationally-known accounting firm, which records the registry and confirms this to the new owner.

A special booklet on pool safety is also sent to the new owner at this time.

Then, in the case of adding or replacing pool equipment such as a diving board, the owner tells the salesman at the pool store what type of pool he has.

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