

Technical Bulletin #104:

Wax Gourd Quality Standards for the Local Market

Producing high quality wax gourds to meet market requirements is very important for Cambodia HARVEST producer groups and clients.

A survey of market requirements found that Kampong Thom province prefers a local variety that produces a large and long fruit, whereas Pursat, Battambang and Siem Reap prefer fruit that is small and short. Color and shape market requirements are the same in all four provinces.

Cambodia HARVEST recommends varieties that are high yielding, have good quality characteristics, and are attractive to buyers. Cambodia HARVEST recommends **Trang Nong Seed Company: TN 61 and TN 88**.



Variety Preferred in Kampong Thom

Wax Gourd Standards

Wax gourds should:

- Be harvested early in the morning to obtain the best quality products. Wax gourds should not be harvested if it is raining.
- Have the stem attached to the fruit. The stem should be at least 1 cm long, but no longer than 3 cm.
- Have flower petals attached to the fruit whenever possible.
- Be harvested with the natural wax and fuzz on the skin.
- Have a fruit diameter that varies from 6 to 8 cm and a length that varies from 20 cm up to 30 cm.
- Be straight and glossy green in color.
- Cylindrical in shape. Bottle shaped fruit is also accepted.
- Be free of foreign matter such as dust, debris, and leaves.
- Be free of insect or pest damage.
- Be free from any signs of rotting, bruising, splits, or cuts.
- Not be over-ripe, deformed, or misshaped.
- Be presented uniformly. The same grade, variety and color should be packed in the same package.

Wax Gourd Sizes Required by the Market

Wax Gourd			
Characteristic	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Freshness required	95-100%	90%-95%	80%-90%
Stem attached to fruit	1 cm	<1 cm	<1 cm or No
Flower petals attached to fruit	Yes or No	No	No
Fruit diameter	6 cm	6-7 cm	6-8 cm
Fruit shape	Cylinder	Cylinder	Cylinder or bottlelike
Fruit weight	0.5 - 0.6 kg	0.6 - 0.75 kg	0.7 - 0.9 kg
Fruit length	20-25 cm	20-30 cm	25-30 cm

Wax Gourd Grading Based on Characteristic:



Grade 1



Grade 2



Grade 3

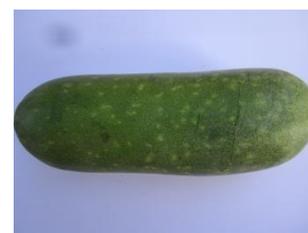
Rejected Products:



Soil Contaminated



Over-ripe



Bruised

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