

Cultural sheet: Honey Drops F1 Melon Dara series

Species	
Variety Name	Melon Honey Drops F1 Dara
Variety number	610-010 Honey Drops F1 Dara
Species	Cucumis Melo
Trade name species	(Small) Honey melon
Type	Annual
Family	Cucurbitaceae
Seed weight	27-30 gram / 1000 sds depending on seed lot
Average germination	85-95%
EU variety Name	(Exp) HDDSO610010
Young Plant	
Nr of Seeds/plug	1 for plug size 3-5 cm 1,5-2"
Germination days	2-4 days (biological des-infected seeds (heat treatment) can take 2 days more)
Germination temp.	(23–25°C/73–76°F Covered and high humidity, no light needed)
Grow on days	8-14 days depending on plug-size en temperature
Grow on temp.	21°-23°C – 70°-73°F
Min. Grow on temp.	18°C – 65°F (This enlarges the grow on days period)
Max. Grow on temp.	35°C – 95°F This shortens the grow on days period, encourage stretching internodes
Optimal D/N temp.	23°C/73°F -21°C/70°F
Soil for sowing	Sowing soil with good drainage, EC 1,5 PH 5,8-6,5
Soil for seed covering	Vermiculite / soil with open structure /app. 2-3 mm thick
Fertilisation in the plug	0,5 EC with each watering, NPK 15-10-15 and micro elements
Ready to transplant	Full rooted plug with first true leaf on the young plant
Attention points during young plant growing	Reduce the humidity soon after germination to 70%. This prevents stretching of the hypocotyl. Cucurbitaceae can grow very fast after germination
Finish for grower	
Grafting	Grafting is useful for a heathy root system in infected soil, but can also be helpful to keep the plant more compact during its growth by reducing the internode length. Grafting is not a necessity.
Potting soil	Standard soil with good drainage and also good water storage capabilities EC 1,5 PH 5,8-6,5
Pot-size	12-13cm 4-5" optimal 13 cm/5" for sales young plant with label 15-17cm 6-7" optimal 17 cm/7" for sales with label and sticks 21-25cm 8-10" for plants with flowers
Plugs per pot	1
Grafted plug	1
Indoor	Final distance indoor 25 cm/10" x 25 cm/10" (16 plts/m2) There must be enough space to wind the plant around the stick
Spacing indoor:	Space the plants when the leaf's/tendrils are reaching each other.
Outdoor in Container	Planting distance 2 plants in a 30 cm/12" Container
Planting soil outdoor	Standard soil with good drainage and also good water storage capabilities EC 1,5 PH 5,8-6,5
Min. Grow on temp.	18°C – 64°F (This enlarges the Grow on days period)
Ideal grow on temp.	21°C-25°C– 70°-77°F
Optimal D/N temp.	23°C/77°F -21°C/70°F
Frost	Plants cannot stand frost.
Watering	Regularly for continues growth, keep the soil moist Watering with minimal. 1-1,5 EC keeps pepper plants healthy
Crop time to saleable	2-4 weeks after planting, the first flowers show on the plants.
Attention points during plant growing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long days (>16 hrs) under relative high light densities increase the plant turning in a generative stage • Plants are tolerant to mildew, but not resistant.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melons are monoecious plants (female and male flowers on the same plant. Usually the melon flowers are monoecious; female and male flowers grow on one plant, male flowers on the central stem, female flowers on the side-shoots. • Under specific conditions (intense light and high temperatures), the female flowers can become dioecious flowers (male and female in one flower). • Female flowers will be visible on the side shoots, not on the main stem! So do not prune away the side-shoots. • Put 2-3 sticks around the central stem of the plant to keep the plant in balance when fruits are growing. • Night temperatures of between 18°-20°C 64°-68°F are ideal. Temperatures below 15°C 60°F severely affect the growing. • Insects, especially bees and bumble bees, support fruit set. Better pollination results in bigger fruits. • Melon plants have a medium fertilization need. When the EC is too low, the leaf's can turn yellow when the fruits are colouring. This also reduces the taste of the fruit. A high N level in fertilisation results in bigger leafs. • Two plant in a 21 cm/8" container. • Melon plants/leaf's can be made sturdier by spraying (MgSO4 -bitter salt and Dipotassium-sulphite (K2SO3)) solutions on the plants. This has a positive effect on the leaf size and colour <p>Clay in the soil will stabilize fertilization variation and reduce stretching. 2-5% is advisable, can be increased to 10%.</p>
Consumer use	
Use	Patio/Container melon for outdoor use, pick fruits when they are ripen. They turn from green to yellow.
Unique specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit weight; 100-150 gram/ripen fruit • Relative soft skin compared to other melons • High productivity, 10 to max 20 fruits/plant • Insects, especially bees and bumble bees, support fruit set • Clay in the soil will stabilize fertilization variation • Trade name Min Melon Dara
Pictures	



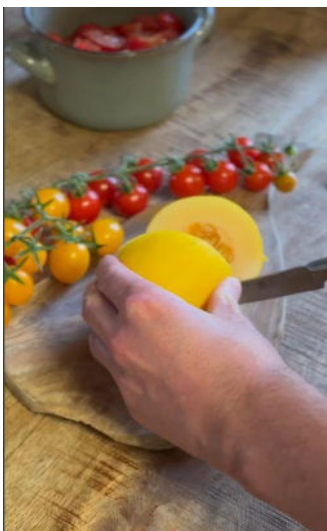
5 cm/2" plug



15 cm/6" pot with juvenile plant



unripen and ripen fruits



Cutting a ripen Honey Drops F1 Dara melon



The thin skin of Honey Drops F1 Dara is easy to peel off.