

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern, layered effect. The shapes are concentrated on the left and right sides, framing the central text.

Pepino Melon

Solanum Muricatum

Pepino Melon, *Solanum muricatum*

- *The Pepino Melon, Or *Solanum muricatum* is actually in the same family as a Tomato or an Egg Plant.
- *The Pepino Melon is native to areas of South America such as Chile, Peru, and Columbia
- *Later found its way to the Southern U.S. Ecuador, New Zealand, Bolivia, Turkey, Mauritius, and Western Australia.
- *It is unclear when the Pepino Melon was first cultivated.
 - However it made its first appearance in commercial cultivation in the U.S. in Santa Barbara in 1887 and in San Diego in 1889
- *It's most commonly exported to Japan, Europe, and North America.
- *The Pepino Melon has also been called tree melon, bush melon, melon pear and mellow fruit.
- *Pepino is Spanish for cucumber, and the Latin American name pepino dulce means sweet cucumber.



Anatomy of Pepino Melon

- The shrub itself is typically about one meter by one meter. However, when grown in a green house it can grow to be two meters tall, increasing the yield to 2-3 times of that of the wild plant.
- The fruit is typically a bright green or yellow green and often times has dark red or purple striations .
- The fruit is roughly the size of a large egg and has the consistency of a firm plum.
- The fruit has a taste that is sweet and very similar to that of the cantaloupe and the honeydew melon.

Growing a Pepino Melon

- Very Similar to Tomatos
- Needs Moderate watering
- Needs half sun
- Regarded as half hearty
- Germinating seeds prefer a minimum soil temperature of 12°C / 54°F
- Can survive mild cold snaps
- Ideal growing temperatures are 5°C / 41°F to 35°C / 95°F
- This plant should be planted in Loam soil



Nutrition Facts of Pepino Melons

Nutrients

- ▶ Very Rich in Vitamin C (25mg for every 100g)
- ▶ Contains many starch fibers
- ▶ A good source of Beta-Carotene
- ▶ Contains Potassium
- ▶ Contains Iron

Potential Health Benefits

- ▶ Said to help prevent cancer.
- ▶ Reduce the risk of stroke.
- ▶ Reduces the risk of hypertension.
- ▶ Aids in preventing diabetes.
- ▶ Also, it is said to lower blood cholesterol levels.

In North America....

In North America, the Pepino Melon is cultivated in the Southwest. It is sold all over the country as seeds, fruits, or the plants themselves. However, the plant is not very resistant to prolonged frost or cold (below 28 degrees). This is why it is only cultivated in the Southwest areas of the United States. The other issue is that it is a seasonal plant, so the fruit is only available at certain times of year (Fall into early Winter). Of the rest of the seasons, all that is available is mainly seeds with a few cultivars selling potted plants.

Questions???

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Thank You!!!