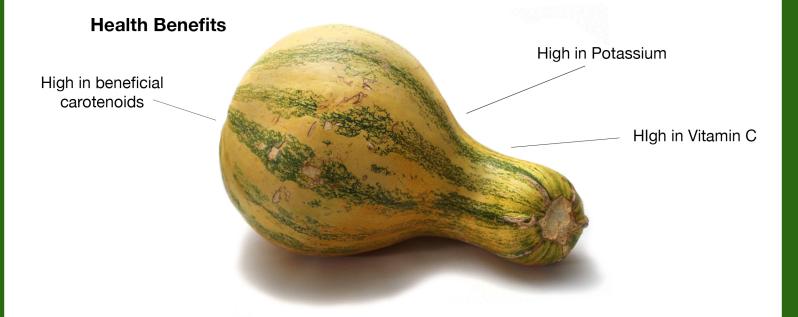
Tohono O'odham Squash

(Cucurbita argyrosperma)

What are They?

- •Tohono O'odham Squash, or T.O. Squash, is a native squash that develops to be quite large, becoming the size of a watermelon or larger, though shaped more like a gourd, if allowed to grow to full maturity
- •Young Squash look much like zuchini, while mature squash look like a large gourd, growing up to 40 pounds
 - •Due to its thick hard rhind, Tohono O'odham Squash holds well and can be preserved in a whole variety of ways, developed by the O'odham people



History

- •Native to North America, squash has been highly cultivated giving us the wide variety that we see today
 - •This particular crop has been been grown in Southern Arizona by the Tohono O'odham for generations



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How to Plant

- •Plant about 3 feet apart, to allow the plant space to grow, vines will stretch out and cover a lot of ground
- •Plant seeds about 3/4 inches into the soil. The rule of thumb is to plant your seed about times as deep as the seed is big

When to Plant

•Plant either just before monsoon rains, utilizing natural rainfall, followed up by watering when needed or plant seeds as temps warm up, well after any risk of a winter freeze

How to Harvest

- •Flowers are edible and can be collected when fully opened and before they begin to wilt
- Squash can be harvested at any point. While some like to allow the squash to mature to full size, the squash can be eaten and prepared while still young



Miscilaneous

•In a special process, this squash can be dried and turned into a rope, preserving the squash to be used at a later date





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