

Birdhouse Gourd

Lagenaria siceraria

At a Glance

- Height/Spread: Vigorous vine up to 10-15 feet long
- Fruit Shape: Large, hard-shelled gourd ideal for crafting
- Days to Maturity: 120-140 days
- Best For: Birdhouses, crafts, ornamental use

Growing Conditions Quick Reference

- Soil Temperature: 70-85F for best germination
- Soil Type: Rich, well-drained soil with compost
- Light Requirements: Full sun (6-8+ hours daily)
- Planting Depth: 1 inch deep
- Seeding Rate: Space hills 3-4 feet apart
- Moisture Needs: Keep evenly moist, avoid prolonged drought
- Average Germination Time: 7-14 days under warm conditions

How to Grow

- When to Plant: Direct sow after danger of frost or start indoors 3-4 weeks early.
- Location: Full sun with plenty of space or a sturdy trellis.
- Spacing: Plant 2-3 seeds per hill, thin to strongest seedling.
- Watering: Consistent moisture during vine and fruit development.
- Fertilizer: Side-dress with compost or balanced fertilizer mid-season.

Tips for Success

- Train vines on a trellis or fence for straighter gourds.
- Allow fruits to fully mature on the vine until the skin hardens.
- Cure in a warm, dry location with good airflow for several weeks.
- Rotate planting locations yearly to reduce pest and disease pressure.

Fun Fact

Birdhouse Gourd

Lagenaria siceraria

Birdhouse Gourds have been used for centuries to make birdhouses, musical instruments, and decorative crafts due to their hard, durable shells.

Companion Planting

Pairs well with corn or sunflowers for natural trellising. Avoid overcrowding with other vigorous vines like pumpkins.

Harvesting and Use

Harvest after the vine dies back and the gourd skin hardens. Cure in a warm, airy spot for several weeks to fully dry before crafting or using as birdhouses.

Quick Planting Checklist

- Sow outdoors after frost or start indoors early
- Keep soil warm (70-85F)
- Space hills 3-4 feet apart
- Provide trellis or support for vines
- Harvest after vine dies back and shell hardens
- Cure in warm, dry area before use