

What to do/Avoid to achieve 100% watermelon flower pollination.

There are various agents of pollination, including insects such as bees, which transfer pollen grains from male flowers to female flowers. Humans can also assist in pollination by manually transferring pollen from male flowers to female flowers. However, several factors can hinder successful pollination. One common obstacle is the lack of pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, and other insects that facilitate the pollination process.

To differentiate between male and female flowers, observe that female flowers possess a small bulge beneath the petals. During the flowering stage, it is advisable to avoid spraying chemicals in the morning as it may repel pollinators. Pollination predominantly occurs in the morning, so it is preferable to reschedule any spraying activities to the evening.

Precautions to take

It is important to note a couple of precautions. In the morning, while controlling pests, you inadvertently chase away pollinators, which are insects that also contribute to pollination. After successful pollination, you may notice that all the male flowers eventually drop off. This is a natural occurrence and should not be confused with flower abortion. Additionally, adverse weather conditions, particularly rainfall, can impede pollination since high humidity restricts the release of pollen from flowers. Pollen becomes available when humidity is low, as it tends to be more powdery and easily dispersed.

Timing plays a crucial role in watermelon cultivation. It is important to avoid planting during the rainy season, as it coincides with the pollination stage. Rainfall often introduces various diseases that can attack the flowers and fruits, resulting in substantial losses.

By understanding the importance of proper pollination, differentiating between male and female flowers, and taking necessary precautions, watermelon growers can maximize fruit production and mitigate potential risks.