

Controlled-Environment Greenhouse



Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department



Newsletter – August 2008

From the Editor

Little sweet melons, characterised by their smooth and thin skin, taste similar to the bigger-sized rock melons. However, given their smaller size and hence more convenient for consumption, they should be more popular among individuals or small families. These melons do not like much moisture or rain, and are therefore most suitable for growing in controlled-environment greenhouses. The cultivation method is similar to that of rock melons, but the yield is better as more fruits can be retained on each plant. In this issue, we will introduce the methods for growing 2 varieties of little sweet melons, namely “Goldy” with a golden skin and “Silver Light” with a greenish silver skin.



Goldy



Silver Light

Selection of Varieties

Goldy and Silver Light are both little sweet melons. An average Goldy weighs about 1 kg and a Silver Light 400 g. Both are suitable for growing in greenhouses, with 3 to 4 harvests each year. About 315 plants can be grown in a greenhouse of 2,000 ft².



Seedlings



Growing “Goldy” in a
greenhouse



Growing “Silver Light” in a
greenhouse

Selection of Fruiting Vines

In growing little sweet melons like Goldy or Silver Light, tertiary vines should be selected for fruit retention. When 3 to 4 leaves appear on the main vine, conduct pinching to enhance the growth of lateral vines. Select 2 of the strongest secondary vines. For each selected secondary vine, remove all the tertiary vines below the 8th node and select 2 strong tertiary vines above the 9th node for fruiting. A fruiting vine can bear 1 fruit. Each plant should preferably retain 4 fruits.

Pinch the buds of the selected secondary vines when about 20 leaves appear. The fruiting vines should also be pinched when 2 or 3 leaves appear to enhance development of the fruits.



Tertiary vines for fruiting
(Silver Light)



Tertiary vines for fruiting
(Goldy)

Harvest

It takes about 70 to 75 days for the fruits to mature for harvest after seeding. The melons taste better 2 to 3 days after harvest.

AFCD Home Page:
<http://www.afcd.gov.hk>

For more information and visits to greenhouses, please contact:
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