

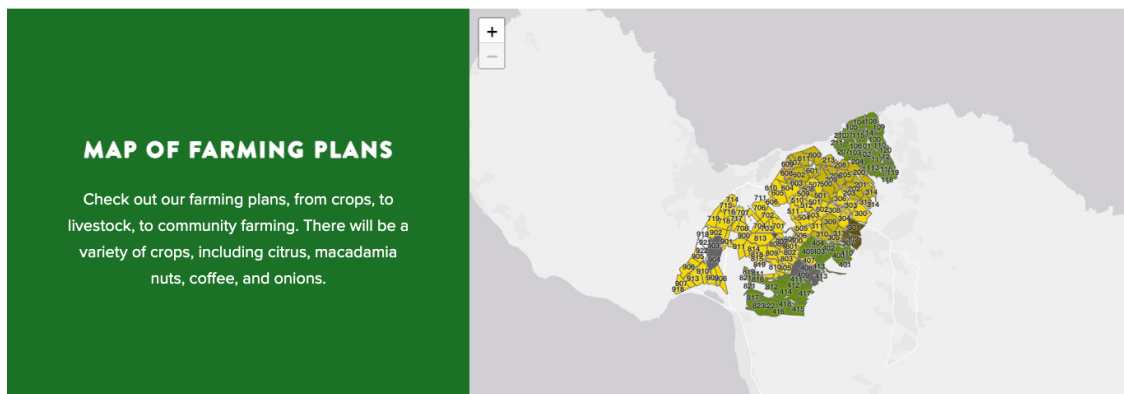
WATERMELON

Locally Sourced by Mahi Pono

Mahi Pono is our local source of watermelon for our seasonal amuse bouche, the Watermelon Gazpacho.

Mahi Pono operates on approximately 41,000 acres of land in Central Maui. It was started in 2018 by Pomona Farming LLC, a California-based agricultural group and PSP Investments, one of Canada's largest pension investment managers.

As of December 2022, they have planted 1.64 million trees and have over 9,000 acres of grass pasture to support Maui Cattle Company.



“The watermelon crop is expected to run through September and this year’s poundage goal is 1.5 million pounds.”

NOW WATERMELON...

Watermelon is in for the long game. Watermelon that is grown outdoors needs about 100 days from seedling to harvesting. All preparation steps start 5 months before planting. These steps include: plowing, fertilizing, stilling, installing irrigation systems, and plastic film covering.

They cut and dig holes through the plastic film and plant the seedlings. To start the growing process, the soil needs to be at a temperature of at least 65 degrees in order to germinate. Seed germination begins once they've planted the seed into the soil. If weather and soil conditions are good the seeds will germinate in 6 to 10 days. During the germination process, they build a plastic tunnel about 1.5 feet high for coverage. Then, about 5 to 10 days later, the first set of leaves will grow. About 45 days later, they will start to gradually rip the plastic film and tunnel off each day until they fully uncover the plants. This is when the new branching vines from the main vine are visible. A healthy watermelon plant can support 3 to 5 branching vines.



Watermelon plants produce male and female flowers. First, the male flower grows during the branching phase. Then, the female flower forms at the tip of a mature vine branch. Male flowers are covered in pollen and female flowers have a stigma. Although these flowers allow the watermelon to pollinate, the male flower will wither after one day. Watermelons cannot self pollinate. They need assistance from bees, insects, and humans. Once the plant has successfully pollinated, it begins to develop a small marble sized fruit. It will grow into a full sized watermelon in less than a month.



FUN FACTS:

- Watermelons are 92% water
- Early explorers used watermelons as canteens
- The word “watermelon” first appeared in the english dictionary in 1615
 - The first recorded watermelon harvest occurred nearly 5,000 years ago in Egypt
 - Watermelons were often placed in burial tombs of kings to nourish them in afterlife
- The world’s heaviest watermelon was grown in Tennessee in 2013 weighing 350.5 pounds
 - More than 300 varieties of watermelons are cultivated in the United States and South America
- Watermelons are in the same family as squash, pumpkins, and cucumbers

DRINK RECIPE

1oz Watermelon Juice
2oz Blanco Tequila
3/4oz Lime Juice
3/4oz Triple Sec
1/2oz Simple Syrup
Muddled Jalapeno