

# **when and why it's important to Gap (replace) lost watermelon plants and how to do it.**

Gap filling, which involves replacing lost seedlings at specific intervals, is crucial for maintaining a healthy and optimal watermelon plant population. To maximize fruit harvest and returns, it is important to plant an ample number of watermelon plants. However, it is essential to note that a high watermelon population does not mean overcrowding the crops, but rather providing them with appropriate spacing.

The spacing between watermelon plants plays a significant role in their growth and productivity. If the furrows are 2 meters apart, the plant spacing should be around 60 cm. For furrows spaced 3 meters apart, the plant spacing should be approximately 40 cm. If the furrows are less than 2 meters apart, it is recommended to keep a spacing of 70-80 cm between plants. These spacing guidelines ensure that each plant has sufficient room to grow and develop optimally.

## **Gapping and Spacing**

By maintaining good spacing, an acre of farmland can yield approximately 3,500-4,000 watermelon fruits. To support the growth and development of the plants, it is advisable to provide adequate nutrition, with around 5 kg of fertilizer per fruit.

Implementing proper gapping and spacing techniques contributes to a healthy watermelon crop, promoting optimal plant growth, fruit production, and ultimately, higher yields.