

- **I have been planting squash for the last 2 years and get very few squashes. What am I doing wrong?**

While planting too late may cause delay or small fruit, not getting any or enough fruit is likely due to lack of pollination. This can be remedied by doing manual pollination with a small paint brush and using the male flower to pollinate.

Hand pollinate the squash blossoms if flowers form but don't set fruit, which indicates a lack of insect pollinators. Dip a small paintbrush into a male squash blossom, then transfer the pollen to a female blossom. Female blossoms have swollen bases that resemble miniature fruits, while male blossom have narrow, straight stems. Pollinating by hand daily when the plants are in bloom can result in the biggest increase in fruiting.

Hold off fertilizing during flowering and fruit production, unless the plants are growing poorly. Too much fertilizer can cause blossom drop or reduced fruiting.

Monitor the squash for insect pests so they don't weaken the plants and decrease the production of squash.

Sources:

<https://www.westcoastseeds.com/blogs/garden-wisdom/grow-squash>

<https://www.thespruce.com/how-to-pollinate-squash-plants-5081674>