

BPI-LBNCRDPSC

VISION

By 2022, BPI is a competent and well respected agency supportive of a competitive plant industry

MISSION

We ensure the availability of quality seeds, safety of plant food, development of crop farming technology and we safeguard the plant industry

CORE VALUES

SPICE IT!

SERVICE ORIENTED
PROFESSIONALISM
INTEGRITY COMMITMENT
EXCELLENCE
INNOVATIVE
TEAM WORK

For more information, please contact:

THE CENTER CHIEF

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

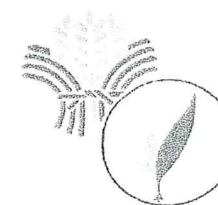
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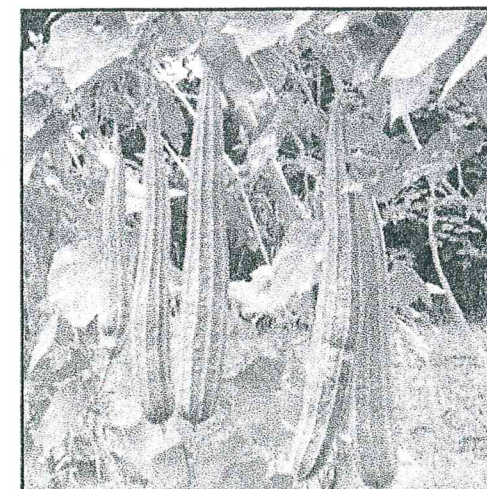
Bureau of Plant Industry

Los Baños National Crop Research,
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SPONGE GOURD

Patola

(Luffa cylindrica /acutangula)



ALL ABOUT SPONGE GOURD

IMPORTANCE

Patola is commonly cultivated for its edible fruit. It is a good source of calcium, iron and phosphorus.

CHARACTERISTICS

It is an annual herbaceous vine with slender stem about 5 m long, leaving tendrils. There were 2 species of edible *patola*, the cylindrical (smooth) and the angular (ridged). It can be grown during the dry and wet season in a well-drained fertile clay-loam or sandy-loam soils.

HOW TO GROW

1. Plow and harrow the field several times.
2. Plant directly 4 to 5 seeds in the prepared furrow, 2.5 cm deep, 1 meter between rows and 1 meter apart in rows.
3. Apply minimal amount of complete fertilizer and compost at planting.
4. Cultivate with light tools to loosen the soil around the stems and to cover the exposed portion of the roots.
5. Weed and cultivate simultaneously.
6. *Patola* is commonly affected by squash leaf beetle and fruit fly. Spray recommended insecticide if necessary.

HARVESTING

It takes three months before *patola* is harvested.