

# TAPIOPLAST® for MELON CULTIVATION WITH ECO-FRIENDLY BIODEGRADBLE COMPOSTABLE MULCH FILM



## MELON CULTIVATION

Almost 28 million tons a year of melon are produced globally. Melon is largely cultivated in China for half of the global production (14 million tons). Turkey, India, Kazakhstan, Iran, Egypt, and USA are also major melon producers. (“World Melon Production”. <https://www.atlasbig.com/en-gb/countries-by-melon-production>)

Melon can be planted in both open fields and protected conditions. Melon plants require 8-10 weeks from seeding to harvesting.

In general, there are three types of mulch film which are commonly used for melon cultivation including black, silver, and transparent film with specific film types for different areas. Black mulch film is used to control weeds and increase soil temperature, Silver film is used to reduce soil temperature and increase photosynthesis from sunlight reflection. Transparent film is used to warm up soil temperature for better root growth in early transplants.

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The technical information provided in this document should be used as a guide only. The advice contained herein is based on tests and information believed to be reliable. Users should not solely rely on this information as performance properties will vary depending on processing conditions. SMS Corporation makes no guarantee of results and assumes no obligation or liability in connection with its advice.

## TAPIOPLAST® MULCH FILM FOR MELONS

**TAPIOPLAST®** mulch film can provide good coverage for melon cultivation both in open field and in greenhouse while also effectively protecting against weeds in each crop season. Black TAPIOPLAST® mulch film with thickness about 20-25 microns is recommended for melons.

**TAPIOPLAST®** black mulch film provides many advantages such as;

- Good toughness and flexibility to avoid breaking of film during mulching by machine
- Punched easily by punching or transplanting machine.
- Saving water usage in the dry season

The film is durable for one crop season and compostable in the soil after harvesting.

Using **TAPIOPLAST®** mulch film not only controls weed growth but also gives good crop quality and less soil compaction for the next round of cultivation.

Melon quality is best when sweetness is high. According to field experiments, some cases show that the total crop yield from **TAPIOPLAST®** mulching is better than normal cultivation and has higher sugar depending on the season, crop management, and environment.

Moreover, **TAPIOPLAST®** mulch film is disintegrated and biodegraded at the end of the cultivation to ensure that the film will not accumulate and become environmental problem.

### Recommendation

Avoid activities that destroy the film before harvest to prevent disintegration at the early stage. For cultivation on the ground, some areas of the film can be degraded by the weight of the fruit and stick-on melon skin.



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