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### **Bud Pollination for Production of Diploid Seedless Watermelon by Partially Inactivated Pollen**

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Diploid seedless watermelons are presently produced by pollination with partially inactivated (soft X-ray irradiated) pollen. Bud pollination on the day before harvest was tested as a means of reducing labor in seedless watermelon production. Bud pollination in the afternoon, as well as those on the day of harvest, resulted in higher yields than those in the morning. There was no difference in fruit weight, fruit soluble solids (Brix), flesh color, rind hardness, and number of empty fruits resulting from bud pollinations and the fruits produced by pollination on the day of harvest. These results were almost similar to those of partially inactivated pollen.

about one year. Our previously established seedless watermelon protocol involved making the soft X-ray irradiated pollen, covering the female before flowering, artificial pollination, and covering the female flower bud pollination, the work involved in covering the female flower bud was omitted, and since preserved inactivated pollen could be used, the time was reduced by about 63.5%.

**Key Words:** [empty seed](#), [laborsaving](#), [parthenocarpy](#), [soft X-ray pollen](#)

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