PRACTICES	HYBRID SUMMER SQUASH (SISCO CARRIOT)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Field Sanitation	Remove members of previous crops, weeds, old vines and diseased/damaged plant material before sowing. Keep the boundaries of field clean to reduce pest and disease carry over	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Soil requirement	Sandy loam soil, well drained, fertile, with good organic matter. Ideal pH range: around 6-7.5. Avoid waterlogging and heavy clay soil.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Soil Testing	Conduct soil testing at least once every 2-3 years. Test NT, pH, EC, and macronutrients and micronutrients. Apply fertilizers based on results	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Climate Suitability	Climate Requirement - Squash thrives in warm and dry climates with full sunlight. - Optimum temperature: 20-30 °C - Sensitive to frost, cool weather delays growth and fruiting.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Land preparation	Land Preparation 2-3 ploughings, followed by harrowing to achieve fine tilth. Incorporate 8-10 tons of well-decomposed FYM per acre during last ploughing. Prepare raised beds or ridges and furrows for better drainage and aeration.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sowing Time	Sowing Time / Season - North India: February-March (spring-summer crop), June-July (rainy season) - South India: January-March and September-December - Hill regions: April-June	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Seed rate & Spacing	Seed Rate / Sowing Method / Spacing Seed rate: 4-5 kg/ha (hybrid seeds: 1-2 kg/ha). Sowing method: Direct sowing on ridges or pits at 2-3 cm depth. Spacing: 1.5 m between rows - 0.6 m between plants (bushy types) or 1.0 m - 1.5 m for spreading varieties. Thin 2-3 seeds per hill, then to one healthy plant after germination.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Seed Treatment	Seed Treatment / Sowing - Treat seeds with Trichoderma viride (2 g/kg or Trichoderma viride (2 g/kg before sowing to prevent damping off and root rots. - For virus-prone areas, soak seeds in Imidacloprid (1 g/l) solution for 30 minutes to protect from virus-borne infection.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Weed Management	Weed Control - Hand weeding and earthing up 20-25 days after sowing, second at 40 days. - Mulching (organic or plastic) is highly effective for moisture conservation and weed suppression. - Pre-emergence herbicide (Pendimethalin @ 1 L/acre may be applied after sowing (if permitted).	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fertilizer Management	Fertilizer & Nutrient Management (Per Acre) Organic manure: 8-10 t FYM before sowing. - Nitrogen (N): 60 kg - Phosphorus (P): 27 kg (N) - MOP - (25 kg (Potash (K) - MGP - (8 kg (- 25 kg K2O) - Apply full P, K, Mg and half N at sowing; apply remaining half N in two splits at flowering and fruiting stages.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Irrigation Management	Irrigation Management - First irrigation immediately after sowing. - Subsequent irrigations every 5-6 days in summer and 8-10 days in cooler months. - Critical stages: flowering and fruit setting. - Avoid water stagnation or overhead irrigation during flowering to prevent disease spread.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pest Management	Pest Management 1. Fruit Fly: Use pheromone traps (8-10/acre). Collect and destroy infested fruits. Spray Spinosad @ 0.3 ml/L or Malathion @ 2 ml/L. 2. Aphids: Monitor. Spray Neem oil @ 5% or Imidacloprid @ 0.3 ml/L. 3. Red Pumpkin Beetle (Red Carrot) (5% @ 10 kg/acre or spray Chlorpyrifos @ 2 ml/L	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Disease Management	Disease Management 1. Powdery Mildew: Spray Wettable Sulphur @ 2 g/L or Hexaconazole @ 1 ml/L. 2. Downy Mildew: Spray Metalaxyl + Mancozeb @ 2 g/L. 3. Mosaic Virus: Control vectors (aphids) using Neem oil @ 5% or Imidacloprid @ 0.3 ml/L. Remove infected plants. 4. Anthracnose: Spray Carbendazim @ 1 g/L or Mancozeb @ 2.5 g/L at 10-day intervals.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Harvesting & Yield	Harvesting / Yield First harvest begins 45-50 days after sowing, when fruits are tender and glossy. Continue harvesting every 3-5 days to preserve new fruiting. Average yield: 100-120 q/acre (bushy varieties) or 80-100 q/acre (trailing types).	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Post-Harvest Management & Storage	Post-Harvest Handling Harvest fruits carefully to avoid bruising. Grade by size and quality. Pack in crates or baskets for transportation. Store at 8-10 °C and 90-95% RH for up to 10-15 days.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Disclaimer	These recommendations are based on SAU's, government agencies, and trial centers. Actual results may vary depending on soil type, climate, variety, and crop management practices.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]