



Halton Region Master Gardeners

Serving the communities of Burlington, Hamilton, Milton & Oakville

“Why are my zucchini squash only producing male flowers?”

Zucchini's are monoecious – producing male and female flowers separately on the same plant. The flowers look similar, but the female flowers have small, immature fruits at their base. The first flowers to appear on healthy plants are the male flowers. Squash tend to prefer warm to hot weather. Cool wet weather with cool temperatures seem to inhibit the growth of female flowers. The optimum temperature for squash to grow is between 18C & 24Cdegrees. Once the weather warms up you will start having female flowers. To increase the chance of pollination, make sure you have flowers nearby to encourage their visiting pollinators to the zucchini.

TIPS - It can be helpful to mix the seed of your cultivar with an early forming cultivar. Strip petals off male flowers and use them as a “brush” to pollinate female flowers (see photo below)!

