

A LUFFA'S POINT OF VIEW

First of all, let me tell you how special I am! I have several names that humans call me; loofah, loofa, luffah, luffa, and dishrag gourd, but it all boils down to one thing! I'm the "scrubbie" of the gourd world.

Folks use my talents for cleaning everything from human bodies to scrubbin' the bathtub; I've also been known to clean some of my hardshelled kuzzins a time or two. If you are interested in havin' a few of my kind hangin' around, here is a few pointers to ponder:

PLANTIN': because we are so special, we require a very long season to grow into a mature sponge. A lot of folks like to put our embryos (that's seeds, to y'all), into what they call peat pots; usually about 3 weeks before takin' us outdoors. Now... we love and need lots of sun and water to mature to our useful creative selves, and we just love this good ole GA sunshine!!

SUPPORT: an arbor, sturdy fence, trellis is just great! It lets our outter beauty grow straight and stretch. Honey, us Loofas just love to stretch! Now, when we start growin' we'll be heavy, just like the hardshells, so please give our vines some help in growin' up our support. Now.. our gourdgeous vines can grow up to 10-12 ft; and as we start to poppin' out as babies, y'all will notice our beautiful yellow flowers to compliment our green foliage.

NOW THIS IS IMPORTANT IN ALL US GOURDS.....

IF FOR ANY REASON, ANY OF US GET SICK, DEVELOP ROTTED FRUIT,
PLEASE REMOVE IT SO THAT THE REST OF US CAN THRIVE THAT MUCH MORE!!!

in other words, basically treat us, when growin', just like our kuzzins, the hardshell, and honey, we will reward you all season long!

PICKIN': Now, towards the fall, y'all will notice that we start losin' weight, and get lighter than our kuzzins do. That right there means that you have the beginnin's of our sponge. Y'all can leave us til the first frost... (please pay attention to that! DON'T like that gettin' cold a'tall). Then please remove us when mature, y'all should be able to break our outter shell and find the goodie underneath!

CLEAN US UP!: as with most gourds, we don't come off that vine just livin' beauties! But if ya just don't have time to get to it right away, just put us in a dry location til you can. Cleaning us outside on a beautiful day where you can remove our outter shell. Shake us to get all the seeds as you can out. Very black seed are best for next year's crop.

Rinse in clean buckets of water to remove our dirt and pulp. Then soak us in another bucket of bleach and water (30/70). Leave us in there for 15 mins. or til we turn the color that you desire. Please rinse once more to remove any chlorine.

Air dryin' is best for us; let us soak up that sunshine!

After that, you can store us in a dry location 'til you'r ready to use.

HAPPY GOURDIN' !

a true story by jan cash
www.GeorgiaGourdSociety.com

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