‘Honey Bear’ acorn squash was bred to be baked and served in the half shell. The honey in ‘Honey Bear’ refers to the sweet squash flavor when cooked. In addition to flavor, there are three outstanding qualities: the compact plant, high yield, and tolerance to powdery mildew. The bushy, compact plant will reach 2 to 3 feet tall and spread 4 to 5 feet without vines. The dark green acorn squash weighs about a pound, which is a perfect size for sharing between two people. The plant produces 3 to 5 fruit per bush. The yield is high due to the powdery mildew tolerance. At the end of the season many acorn squash plants succumb to the mildew and fruit on the plant never matures. ‘Honey Bear’ continues to bear fruit throughout the growing season. From sowing seed in the garden until the harvest of the first squash will be about 100 days. ‘Honey Bear’ was bred at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.

AAS® Winner Data

Genus species: Cucurbita pepo L.  
Common Name: Acorn squash  
Unique qualities: Exceptional eating quality, powdery mildew tolerance  
Fruit size: 1 pound  
Plant type: Bushy compact  
Fruit shape: Round to slightly oval with rounded blossom end and shallow ribbing  
Plant width: 4 to 5 feet spread  
Fruit color: Dark green  
Plant height: 2 to 3 feet  
Garden spacing: 2 feet by 6 feet  
Garden location: Full sun  
Length of time to harvest: 100 days from sowing seed  
Closest comparisons on market: ‘Table Ace,’ ‘Table Queen,’ ‘Autumn Delight’