

SEED & FIELD SERVICES LTD

Newsletter

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Winter 2010

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Planning for the Season Ahead

This onion planting season has brought home the fact that we all need to plan for the season ahead, and then have the flexibility to change those plans as the need arises.

From previous seasons experience combined with performance of newer varieties in the field, in the packing shed and on the export and domestic

markets, most growers will have a good idea which varieties perform best for them.

The 2010 planting season is now underway with most first earlies already planted. During June, July and August the bulk of Pukekohe and Waikato early and main season plantings will go in the ground—weather permitting. As many of you know, seed of some varieties have been short or not available at all this season. When this has happened do you have Plan B or Plan C in place to fill the seeding gap? In many cases there are other varieties that will do a similar job to your preferred variety. If you are not sure exactly what to use talk to Grant, Philip or Andrew and they will help make your choice easier.

Once you have decided which varieties or replacement varieties to use have you ordered the seed early enough to give yourself ample time to have the seed coated and returned before planting?. If you give yourself plenty of time to get organised, disappointments and delays will be minimised.



For the right varietal advice, talk to Grant, Andrew or Philip who will help you select the varieties that will perform for you under local conditions.



Grant Wilson
Ph: 021-934-201
gwilson@sfse.co.nz



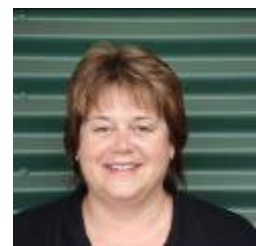
Phil Picot
Ph: 021- 986 -205
ppicot@sfse.co.nz



Helen Bowden
Ph: (09) 237-1153
hbowden@sfse.co.nz



Andrew Culley
Ph: 021-764-596
aculley@sfse.co.nz



Karen Betty
Ph:(09) 2371153
kbetty@sfse.co.nz

Onions

New Introductions

Kauri—

Long storage hybrid brown onion from Terranova seeds. Maturing at a similar time to PLK, Kauri features noted from trials last season were its attractive dark brown skins and excellent uniformity of the globe shaped bulbs.

Limited seed available for 2010. Sow late July—August.



Cabernet—

New hybrid Red Onion from Terranova trialled over the last two seasons in the Franklin area. Cabernets outstanding feature is its intense dark red outer skin colour, and dark red internal rings, with a uniformed globe shape. To date in trials Cabernet has offered medium term storage.

Limited seed available for 2010. Sow from late July to August for a Mid to late January harvest.



NZ NORTH ISLAND RED ONION SOWING TO MATURITY GUIDE

Variety	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Red Star					█						█	
Red Emperor H5107					█						█	
Cabernet					█						█	
Red Queen XP7927002					█						█	
Red Keep					█						█	
Red Company						█					█	
Tanya						█					█	
Red Wing						█					█	
Red Bull						█					█	

NZ NORTH ISLAND BROWN ONION SOWING TO MATURITY GUIDE

Variety	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Perez (5013)				█							█	
Baron			█								█	
Seminis PLK				█							█	
Octane					█						█	
Waikato					█						█	
Canterbury					█						█	
T400						█					█	
T418						█					█	

Sowing =	█
Maturity =	█

Please Note: Disclaimer:

Based on current information, every effort has been made to provide accurate information in the above charts. However Seed & Field Services will accept no liability for any consequences of using this Sowing/Maturity Guideline as local environmental and individual grower practices may influence varietal performance.

Product Profiles—Spinach



RACoon— Pfs:1-11, trialling for winter period, upright variety with excellent cold tolerance and seedling vigour, round leaf, semi blistered, limited commercial seed on hand

TURACO— [51-117] Pfs:1-11, winter oriental type to replace Dragon.

DONKEY - Pfs:1-11, slow bolting summer variety to compare to Crocodile

ZEBU — Pfs:1-11, would be another option to trial against Crocodile but we prefer Donkey

TOUCAN - Pfs:1-11, suitable for mid summer harvest, dark green with round smooth leaf, commercial but need to indent.

SQUIRREL— Pfs:1-11, suitable for Spring and Autumn, some seed on hand.

PELICAN— Pfs: 1-10, suitable for Spring and Autumn, trial seed only.

RED CARDINAL— Pfs: 1-11, for autumn , Winter, Spring harvest, vigorous red type with thick rounded glossy leaf.

Recent articles in the UK Vegetable Growers magazine highlighted the growing problem of Downy Mildew in spinach, particularly in high density sowing situations used in baby leaf salad production.

With the ability of the downy mildew fungus to continually develop new races, there has now been identified some 11 races, and although not yet officially classified it appears it will be not long before we have race 12.

Not all of these races have been identified in New Zealand however breeders overseas have bred varieties that are resistant to all 11 races.

For bunching spinach growers using less denser plantings, mildew is less of a concern. Current favourite varieties such as Spitfire, Parrot, Rhythm and Crocodile that generally have less DMRs are still good options in the Franklin district.

We will see however a phasing in of a number of new DMR 1-11 varieties over the course of the next couple of years, putting us in the fortunate position of being able to evaluate many of these for their suitability to the district.

To the left and below are lists from Terranova Seeds and Seminis with descriptions of some of the DMR 1-11 varieties either commercially available or currently in trial

Seminis®

ISLAND [RS1464] Summer Spinach, can be considered a MENORCA/SARDINIA replacement. Savoy leaf type best suited for Baby Leaf production. Medium dark green shiny round oval leaves. The plant habit is semi erect with short cotyledons. DMR Pfs1-11

WALLIS—Summer spinach, this variety offers a little more vigour than SARDINIA. Semi Savoy leaf type suitable for both Bunching and Baby Leaf production. Medium dark green pointed oval leaves. The plant habit is erect with medium short cotyledons. DMR Pfs1-11

PALAOS [RS 3411] Transitional – cool season type (very versatile). PALAOS Is a Semi Savoy type for the mid maturity slot and is very similar to SPITFIRE with slightly less vigour. The plant habit is semi erect and has excellent uniformity and field holding. Medium dark green round oval leaves. Suitable for both Bunching and Baby Leaf production. DMR Pfs1-10

Summer Brassica Sowing Suggestions

Cauliflower—

Summerlove—Sow July to January

Nova—Sow June to January

Highfield - (Clubroot Resistant) - Sow July—December

Cabbage—

Green Cabbage

Cabaret —Sow July to March

Ducati—Sow July to November

Red Cabbage

Cairo

Kremlin Sow July to Mid February

Red Dynasty

Broccoli—

Arcadia

Liberty Sow July to January

(Suggestion for Trial)

Agassi

Serenity Sow July to December

Kuba

Autumn/Winter Lettuce Sowing Suggestions

Iceberg—

Gitanas Sow from May to Mid July

Albanas Sow from Mid July to end of August



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if it will Grow???**

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Germination Testing Service available NOW.
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to submit your seed samples**



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RED QUEEN— (Formerly trialed as 27002) - an early- mid season red hybrid that is flat globe shaped with good internal and external colour, it has excellent vigour and produces a high percentage of large bulbs that are ideally suited for peeling. Suitable for export to South East Asia and Pacific Rim markets. Intermediate resistance to Fusarium basal rot.

RED EMPEROR—Red Emperor yields are typically very good with all plants developing bulbs and virtually a complete absence of off types or non bulbing plants. Bulbs are slightly flattened globes, and of consistent size and shape. The cosmetic appearance factor is high with tight scales of deep red colouration, matched by strong colouration of the internal rings.

RED KEEP— Excellent yields and quality typify this open pollinated storage variety with Pukekohe Longkeeper bloodlines. Red Keep typically displays superior resistance to bolting compared with most red varieties in this timeframe. Five to six months shed storage is possible with Red Keep. Proven as suitable for export shipping.

