

VEGETABLE SEED CATALOGUE

Africa's Leading Agro Solutions Company



Victoria
SEEDS Limited

Variety Lists

CABBAGE: Hybrid • Indica F1 OPV • Copenhagen Market, • Drumhead • Red Rock	LEEK: OPV • Italian Giant • American Flag LETTUCE: OPV • Great lakes	TOMATO Hybrids • Tejas F1 • Makis F1 • Victoria F1 • Josefina • Marina • Kuber 573 F1 • Tanya F1 OPVs • Heinze • Moneymaker • Roma • Tengeru • Rio Grande • Cal J • Flora Dade • Mar Globe
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Why buy your vegetable seeds from Victoria Seeds Limited. Africa's Leading Agro Solution Company

An informed farmer undertakes farming as a business by using quality seed adapted to changing times. A smart farmer only shows high yielding varieties with disease resistance to minimize spraying and with tolerance to abiotic stress such as drought.

Vegetable remains an important source of income generation and constitutes a key source of micronutrients. The Victoria Seeds vegetable hybrids assure farmers of improved nutrition, food and income security because of their high yields and tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses.

AMARANTHUS

White Elma

- An indigenous vegetable with fast vegetative growth with ovate leaves
- Maturity, 2 – 3 weeks.
- Adapts well to a range of deferent growing circumstance with high vigor and yields
- Seed rate of 2kgs per hectare is recommended.
- Planting can be done by broadcasting or drilling between rows with spacing at 20 – 30 cm apart.

BEET ROOT

Detroit

- Maturity: 65 – 85 days
- Seed rate: 1.5 – 2 kg/acre
- Detroit is a small-sized sweet, round shaped root that is dark-red in colour. This variety has deep red flesh, excellent flavor and stores well.
- Detroit is slow to germinate and therefore soaking the seed in water for 24 hours (1 day) before planting helps to speed up germination.
- Soil requirement: The soil should be deep and well-drained, loose, loamy to sandy soils. Heavy clay soils or soils which crust after rain or irrigation may cause establishment problems and the production of misshapen roots.
- Deep plowing is required to prepare a fine seed bed.
- The seeds can be sown directly onto the garden at the spacing of 30 cm × 10 cm

CABBAGE

Copenhagen Market - OPV

- Has a compact, uniform round head that is firm, medium sized with an average weight of 0.5 – 1 kg.
- The plant is short stemmed and rather small and can be spaced closer
- Is a widely adapted hardy variety producing flattish head
- Maturity, 80 – 90 days

Drumhead - OPV

- An open pollinated variety, the heads are rounded in shape and composed of tightly packed, bright green leaves
- This cabbage has a refreshing, peppery flavor that softens when cooked
- Weight, 1.5 – 2.0 kg.
- Maturity, 110 – 120 days

Indica F1 - Hybrid

- Hybrid cabbage variety that produces deep oblate to flat heads. Plants are large and quite vigorous
- Performs very well in rainy seasons and is recommended for mid and high land tropical growing areas as well for semi tropical growing condition
- It shows a good field holding ability, low bursting and good long distance shipping ability
- Medium maturity 60 – 70 days
- Weight 1.3 – 1.5 kgs

General management of Cabbage

- Seed rate: 120 – 200 g/ha for transplanting and 1000 – 2000 g/ha for direct sowing
- Plant spacing, 60 cm × 60 cm and plant depth of 20 mm
- Soil preparation includes deep plowing, mixing with composite or stable manure followed by fine tillage.
- Fertilizer usage; use NPK fertilizer for good vegetative growth.
- Weeding: The crop should be kept free of weeds, especially in the first two months. Mulching with straw is beneficial to growth. A regular supply of water is also required.
- Disease control: Major diseases are; Black rot, dumping off, bacterial soft rot, downy mildew and grey leaf spot. Control by protective fungal spray right from the nursery bed, buy clean seeds, destroy infected crop and practice crop rotation. Hybrids are resistance to downy mildew
- Pest control: Major pests include aphids, white flies, cut worms, aphids, and diamond backmoth, thrips which can be controlled through regular spray with cypermethrine and dimethoate, and chlorphiriphos, practice crop rotation. Water regularly to control aphids
- Harvest cabbage as soon as they are mature to avoid head cracking.

CARROT

New Kuroda

- The variety has excellent deep orange and small core in combination with high yield.
- In optimum condition, it produces uniform roots with smooth exteriors. It performs well under wet condition.
- Maturity, 100 – 110 days

Nantes

- This variety has straight, long cylindrical roots with round shoulders and blunt tip and has a nice light orange color.
- It is a medium length, cylindrical type that grows to 15–17 cm long and 2.5–3 cm thick
- It has a sweet taste that is eaten fresh or as salad with.
- Maturity is 120 days

General management of carrot

- Seed rate: 700 – 1250 g per acre
- Planting: Planting on raised beds or ridges is recommended. Mix the seed with clean sand at ratio of 1:2, sow the seeds by sprinkling along the furrow created on the ridges spaced at 30 cm apart, and cover the seeds with a fine-thin layer of soil. Thin the carrot when about 2 – 3 weeks after emergence leaving space of 30 cm between rows and 10 cm between plants. Continue to water and weed the seedling until plants are large enough to shade out competition.
- Fertilizer requirement: Apply DAP at planting at the rate of 50 kg/acre. In the earlier stage of production, carrot responds well to nitrogen stimulating the production of good healthy top on the plants. Calcium is also important to improve the strength of the carrot. Over application of nitrogen at any stage will stimulate the leaf production and can negatively affect the production of excess sugars for the roots

NB: Fresh organic matter can be detrimental to a carrot crop

Disease and pest control: Leaf blights in carrots are controlled by spraying with fungicides. Root knot nematode control is by crop rotation and seedbed sterilization (Solarization, and use of Dusban)

CAULIFLOWER

Snowball

- Snow ball has a white, round and firm head with large outer leaves.
- It weighs about 1kg when mature
- Yield potential, 10 – 12 tons per acre
- Maturity: 80 – 85 days

Management of cauliflower

- Seed rate: 200 – 400 g/ha for transplant and 500 – 1500 g/ha for direct sowing
- Plant spacing: 70cm × 45cm
- Transplanting to the field should be done 30 – 40 days after sowing in the nursery bed. Two to three of the outer leaves should be broken over the top of the head to shade it from the sun.
- Use NPK fertilizer before planting, later to stimulate good head formation.
- Use NPK: N: 220 kg/ha, P: 25 – 40 kg/ha, K: 200 – 300 kg/ha.
- Mulching is beneficial to growth
- Disease control: Diseases are similar to those of cabbages in the tropics and controlled in the same way

CUCUMBER

Kanene

- Very early maturing fresh market predominantly female flowering
- Produces medium long fruits 14 – 16 cm long and 4 – 5 cm in diameter
- Maturity, 35 – 40 days

Nandini F1

- Nandini is a monoecious hybrid with a rather vigorous plant habit and good side shoot formation.
- Fruit color is medium to dark green.
- Fruit shape is cylindrical and very uniform during the harvesting season.

Ashley

- A fresh market variety widely adapted with good resistance to Downy mildew.
- Fruit size of 19 cm × 6 cm
- Maturity, 60 – 70 days

Management of cucumber

- Seed rate: 1000 g/ha (for transplant) and 2000 g/ha (Direct sowing)
- Plant spacing: 130 cm × 40 cm
- Cucumber requires a warm climate with optimum temperature of 30 °C.
- It needs fair amount of water but can't stand water logging. Soil should be fertile, well drained. Prepare a fine seed bed and raise the bed on which to plant to improve drainage.
- During the soil preparation, incorporation of organic manure is required
- Fertilizer requirements: 700 kg/ha of NPK mixture, followed by N fertilizer in form of urea every 2-3 weeks
- Resistance: Kanene is resistant to downy mildew
- Diseases and pests control: Use of disease resistant seed can prevent early disease infection.

AFRICAN EGGPLANT

Tessa Oval

- Bears big cream fruits and yields about 26 tons per acre.
- It is tolerant to leaf curl and blight diseases
- Maturity: 80 days from transplanting
- Seed Rate: 120 g for transplanting
- Spacing: 75 cm × 50 cm

EUROPEAN EGGPLANTS

Runako F1

- This type of eggplant is a hybrid with wide adaptability.
- It has an erect plant habit with strong tolerance to bacterial wilt and long harvest period.
- Runako is a high yielder with cylindrical fruits that is purple-violet (light purple) in colour weighing between 140 – 180 g.
- It has an excellent shelf life
- Maturity: 60 – 75 days

Ailei F1

- Maturity: 60 – 75 days
- It is a tall and high yielding variety with elongated fruits of about 30 cm long and 8 cm wide with deep purple color that performs well in all areas but better below 1800 m (6000ft).
- Ailei is suitable for areas where bacterial wilt occurs. It has a rather vigorous and erect plant habit.
- Fruits are long, slender, and shiny. Fruit color is dark purple with a greenish purple calyx. Internal flesh color is green.
- Fruits are firm and display a good shelf life. It has an outstanding eating quality.

Black beauty - OPV

- This is a popular fresh market eggplant variety because of its established qualities and high yield. It is an open pollinated (OPV).
- Its fruits are large, almost round, very compact and smooth with glossy dark purple (almost black) colour. The inner flesh is white, very meaty and excellent quality and flavor and has along picking period of up to 6 month and good keeping quality.
- Maturity: 80 - 90 days

Early Long purple - OPV

- Maturity: 70 – 80 days
- It is a tall and high yielding variety with elongated fruits of about 20 cm long and 6 cm wide with deep purple color.
- It shows strong tolerance to Heat, Bacterial wilt, Anthracnose, tomato mosaic virus (TMV), cucumber mosaic virus (CMV) diseases.
- Long purple is tender with excellent flavor

Management of egg plants

- Seed rate: 280 – 300 g/ha for transplanting; 750 – 1000 g/ha for direct sowing
- Plant spacing: 75 cm × 50 cm
- Soil should be well prepared. A first watering at the base of each plant is necessary and afterwards the frequency of irrigation depends on the soil type and the season

- Weeding is necessary, particular in a young crop. Soil which is too wet, increase disease incidence. For phytosanitary reason, planting eggplants after other solanaceous plants eg tomato, pepper should be avoided.
- Eggplant is a heavy feeder and for higher yields, fertilizers and manure requirements are large. Fertilizer recommendation for intensive production may include 40 tons of FYM/ha, which should be applied before transplanting. N.P.K; N-50-300 kg/ha, K-30-200 kg/ha. Nitrogen content of oil should not be excessive to avoid the young plants developing excessive foliage to the detriment fruit production.

KALE

Dara

- Is a popular kale variety with vigorous growth producing long large stems and pointed leaves
- Due to bolting tolerance, high yields of good quality can be obtained. It has very little breakage of leaves during transport
- Maturity, 40 days from transplant
- Under good management, it can reach 2 – 3 tons per acre

Thousand headed

- Vigorous plants with many side branches, Very leafy product with continuous picking
- Indeterminate very hardy product with ability to recover easily
- Light green colored leaf, very good heat tolerance
- Maturity 90 - 100 days from planting
- Yield potential 8 tons per acre

Management

- Seed rate: 300 g/ha for transplanting; 600 – 1000 g/ha for direct sowing
- Plant spacing: 65 cm × 45 cm
- Soil preparation includes deep plowing with incorporation of 40 tons of organic matter. Before transplanting, apply fertilizer DAP at a rate of 50 kg/acre, followed by top dressing with 50 kg/acre of urea for good vegetative growth at four weeks. One can boost with the foliar NPK fertilizer like Frocrop 13-13-13, and 4-16-28 for optimum growth. Planting on ridges during wet season to improve on drainage is recommended. The crop should be kept weed free especially in the first month.

Leek

Italian Giant

- Is a vigorous growing plant with thick white stem reaching a height of 70 – 80 cm
- It has a white, smooth and firm head.
- High temperatures are not favorable for its growth
- Maturity: 90 – 150 days
- Seed rate: 2 kg/ha on a seed bed and 4 kg/ha direct sowing
- Plant spacing: 30 cm × 10 cm
- Under proper management this variety yields up to 6 tons per acre.
- Management of leek
- Leek dislikes compacted soil; therefore, loosen the soils deeply before planting the seedlings.
- Apply farm yard manure at a rate of 16 tons per acre during garden preparation.
- Ensure regular supply of water in the field but not over watering as this may cause root rot disease.

- Mulching leek with composted leaves and straw is highly recommended to maintain soil organic content. Do not plant leek in the field previously occupied with onions or garlic in the last seasons.
- Common Pests of leek include, Thrips, leaf miners, onion flies and common diseases include, purple blotch, downy mildew, bacterial soft rot, sour skin, anthracnose and fusarium basal rot. Control; do not damage the leaves prior to harvest or bulbs during harvest. Use only disease free seed or transplants. Practice crop rotation with cereals. Improve soil drainage by using raised beds to control damping off disease. Use of fungicides such as Victor zeb, Ridomil to control downy mildew is recommended.

LETTUCE

Great lakes

- This variety prefers partial sun shine and shade;
- It produces blight glossy green heads. Heads are very firm, larger and more uniform with more frilled, dark green wrapper leaves.
- It is a heat tolerant, slow bolting and resistant to tip burn and mosaic virus diseases.
- It is suitable for both commercial growing and home gardens
- Maturity: 88 days
- Seed rate: 500 g/ha (transplanting) and 1500 – 3000 g/ha (direct sowing)
- Seeds are sown on a shaded seed bed; the seedlings pricked out 2-3 weeks after emergence
- Lettuce has a shallow root system. Keep soils moist to keep plants growing continuously and prevent tip burn. Mulching is recommended where possible to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

OKRA

Spear Clemson - OPV

- This is a remarkable variety that is totally resistant to yellow Mosaic Virus disease.
- It is high yielding producing on average 18 pods per plant during the growing season. The fruits are about 11.4cm long and 1.9cm wide.
- Maturity: 50-60days to mature.

Clemson spineless - OPV

- This variety has open foliage. A leading variety for the fresh market variety with an average pod yielding of 10 pods per plant and fruit length of 10 cm
- Maturity: 55 days

Pusa Sawani - OPV

- This variety is suitable for all seasons.
- The pods lack spine (hairs) and are good for export.
- It fairly tolerant to yellow vein mosaic disease.
- The pods are long, five ribbed, smooth, and dark green, slender and remain tender even after growing to a large size.
- It is highly productive (prolific bearer) and the pods are ready for first harvest or picking in about 55-60days from sowing.

Management

- Seed rate: 2 kg/acre, 5 kg/ha
- Plant spacing: 60 cm × 30 cm (1 plant/ hill); 90 cm × 60 cm (2 plants/ hill)

- Okra is very susceptible to damage by the nematodes and okra farmers should follow a rotation using crops such as grasses and small grains which prevent build up of nematode populations. Okra should not follow vine crops such as sweet potatoes. A well drained fertile soil is best for okra productions. Select a soil with good water holding capacity.
- Diseases: Nematodes can cause serious losses to okra. Root Knot nematodes can be controlled by the use of approved nematocides. Dumping-off disease can be controlled by planting certified diseased free clean seeds.
- Okra requires a lot of nutrients to perform well. Use NPK prior to sowing. Top dress with urea during the vegetative stages at the rate of 50 kg/acre one month after planting. Okra is sown directly. A good seed soil contact is essential for an even crop establishment. Mulching with dry grass includes the cool microclimate that is required during the early stages

ONION

Red Creole - OPV

- It is an improved high yielding variety, bright red in color and very popular.
- It's a bright red high yielding variety with hard pungent flesh
- It has flat to flat-round bulb, the flesh is firm, hard and has a powerful taste.
- It has gained popularity due to its good keeping quality.
- It takes between 110-150 days to mature

Bombay Red - OPV

- It is a popular variety, deep red in color, suitable for dry and warm conditions and can do well in home gardens.
- The bulbs are small to medium size, globe shaped, purplish red in color and are pungent (has a strong/powerful smell or it is spicy).
- Bombay red is easily attacked by the onion blast disease. Therefore, regular sprays with mancozeb are recommended right from seed emergence at 10 days interval.
- It takes 150 days to mature.

Management

- Disease control: Pink root, a soil borne disease can be controlled by 5- year rotation without Alliums species
- Plant spacing: 10 cm × 8 cm
- Seed rate: 1.6 kg/acre for transplanting and 2.8 kg/acre for direct sowing
- Onion can grow on a well drained fertile soil. Adequate calcium nutrition is essential for good vegetative development and disease tolerance
- Propagation and planting: onions can be directly sown or sown in nurseries. About 40 – 50 days after sowing, the young plants as thick as pencil are transplanted at densities of 16-36 plants/m².
- Fertilization required high fertilization with 50 kg/acre of NPK. Fertilization should also contain enough sulphates. All the required P and K and half of N should be planted at planting time. Side-dressing of the remaining half of N in form of urea should be done as bulbing begins i.e. 150 kg/ha

SWEET PEPPER

Ganga - Hybrid

- A widely adapted variety for a fresh market with continuous fruit set.
- Plant habit is vigorous and yields are very high giving a fruit mass of 110 g.
- Fruits are near perfect blocky with thick wall and have a very attractive dark green color
- Plants height is 70 – 75 cm.
- It is resistant to Tobacco mosaic virus and strip
- Maturity: 70 – 75 days after transplanting

Carlifornia Wonder - OPV

- This is a widely adapted variety for fresh market.
- Its plants are rather tall (70-75cm high), vigorous and highly productive.
- The fruits are hanging, thick-walled, 4 lobed, uniform, blocky and compact with attractive colour. Fruiting continues over a long period and a mature weighs 110g.
- It is resistant to tobacco mosaic virus disease.
- It takes 70 to 75days to reach maturity after transplanting

Management of green peppers

- Seed is sown in nursery beds first. Seedbeds should be protected against rain and direct sun. Transplants are planted 3 – 4 weeks after sowing.
- Apply 4-8 tons of organic manure per acre during land preparation. Also fertilizers such as NPK can be used at a rate of 50kg per acre. Split the fertilizer into a basal dressing plus some side dressing at intervals of 3 - 4 weeks.
- Ensure frequent water supply without over-wetting the field. Mulch the field to prevent sunscalds due to high temperatures.
- Fungal sprays with Victor zeb (Mancozeb) are crucial right from emergence in the nursery bed to prevent fungal infections.

HOT PEPPER

Demon F1 - Hybrid

- Demon is a very vigorous variety with a reliable performance in a range of different growing circumstances
- Plants are tall with a concentrated set of fruits and is upright bearing
- The attraction of Demon is its fruit quality, firm, very nice bright red color, and uniform fruits in size and shape.

PUMPKINS

Arjuna F1 - Hybrid

- Fruit weighs about 3.5 kg and has a shelf life of 4 – 6 weeks. Its flesh is firm, yellow in colour and tastes are excellent.
- Plants are very vigorous and the variety has an intermediate resistance to downy and powdery mildew.
- Maturity, 120 -130 days
- Seed rate: 3 -4 kg/ha
- Plant spacing: 2m × 2m
- Pumpkins are not very demanding with respect to soil. They can be cultivated on any well-drained soil. Seeds can also be sown on raised bed. The crop responds well to farm manure
- Fertilizer application: use NPK; N: 50-100 kg/ha, P: 20-40 kg/ha, K: 40-80 kg/ha.
- Some of the minerals can be applied as top dressings of NPK, 10:10:10 e.g. 50 kg/ha at the first fruit setting

- Disease control: Control alternaria leaf spot, gummy stem blight; use a healthy seed, removing debris, crop rotation and use of protective fungicides such as victor zeb

White flat Boer - OPV

- This pumpkin variety is creamy white in color, with a bright orange flesh.
- This pumpkin offers a unique color and shape for specialty markets.
- It has a bright orange flesh and a sweet taste.
- The white color on this pumpkin stays white and does not bleach out or yellow over time.
- It stores very well.
- It takes 153 days to mature and a mature fruit weighs 4.5 - 7.2 Kgs
- At the recommended spacing of 2m by 2m, a farmer will need 1.2 to 1.6 kg of pumpkin seed to plant an acre.

SWISS CARD

Fordhook giant

- Large, dark green crinkled leaves with broad glossy white ribs. Excellent flavor.
- Maturity; 55 days
- Seed rate 10 kg/ha for direct sowing
- Plant spacing; 60 cm × 20 cm
- Swiss card requires a fertile, moist soil for good growth. Swiss card is susceptible to nematodes, which can be controlled by crop rotation.

TOMATO

Makis F1 - Hybrid

- This is a very popular determinate variety perfect for low land areas and ideal for areas where bacterial wilt pressure is high.
- It has an excellent fruit set in warm and humid conditions.
- Fruits are firm and red in color and its good color can be used for both fresh market processing.
- It takes 90-110 days to mature.

Tejas F1 - Hybrid

- This is a determinate hybrid variety with a vigorous and large plant type adapting well to a wide range of growing conditions.
- Fruits are somewhat oblong in shape and very firm suitable for mid and highland areas.
- Because of its high brix, good viscosity, low pH and good color, it can be used for both the fresh market as well for processing.
- It takes 90 - 110 days to mature

Josefina (Cherry tomato) - Hybrid

- Is an indeterminate cherry tomato variety suitable for fresh market
- This variety is tolerant to tomato bacterial wilt; fusarium wilt and verticillium wilt diseases.
- A fruit weighs between 10 - 25 grams and performs well in both dry and wet seasons.
- Maturity: 90 days

Marina F1 - Hybrid

- It is a determinate tomato variety with high quality fruits with outstanding uniformity.
- Fruits are firm with very good red color (both internal and external color), blocky in shape and slightly elongated.
- The plants grow vigorously with medium maturity and with intermediate resistance to nematodes, bacterial wilt, tomato yellow leaf curl virus disease and tomato mosaic virus disease as well as fusarium wilt.
- A mature fruit weighs between 90-110g.
- It takes 100 days to mature.

Tanya F1

- Tanya is a determinate hybrid with rather strong vigor, producing small round fruits.
- Fruits are quite firm, tasty and red in color.
- Tanya is very much suitable for growing in tropical lowland conditions.
- It is a good choice for areas where bacterial wilt pressure is high.
- Also it has the ability to set fruit under warm condition
- Maturity: 100 days

Rio Grande - OPV

- These determinate compact plants produce high viscosity fruits excellent for processing and also used for fresh market.
- The mature all red fruits are elongated square round, blocky, and slightly larger than tomato cal J. weighing between 100 to 110 grams each.
- This variety is well adapted to hot days and cold nights and withstands extremes in temperature. It is resistant to Verticillium and Fusarium wilt.
- Average maturity is 80 days from transplanting.

Mar Globe - OPV

- It takes an indeterminate tomato variety that takes between 80-100 days to mature.
- A fruit weighs between 198 - 280 g is perfectly round, smooth, solid fleshed red tomatoes.

Cal J - OPV

- This is a compact determinate variety suitable for processing.
- The plant is vigorous and highly productive. The fruits are medium sized, "square" with apple-green back, very firm, smooth, intense red color with excellent flavor.
- It stands high in desirable processing characteristics and has excellent potential as a peeling tomato.
- A fruit weighs between 10-25 grams and performs well in both dry and wet seasons.
- It is resistant to Verticillium and Fusarium wilt disease.
- Maturity is 90 - 110 days.

Roma - OPV

- This is a popular processing variety with good dry matter content. Fruits are smooth, fleshy, pear shaped, and weigh about 70gm, and do not have a green base or crack.
- It is high yielding, determinate variety with uniform ripening for mechanical harvesting, and heavy foliage cover.
- It's resistant to Verticillium and Fusarium wilts, and resistant to nematodes.
- It takes 90 - 100 days to mature.

Heinze - OPV

- This is a medium variety with large fruits well adapted to humid climate condition.
- The plant is compact, determinate with good foliage cover.
- It is fairly resistant to cracking and the fruits are deep oblate with uniform green shoulders.
- It is resistant to Verticillium and Fusarium wilt and is suitable for both fresh market and processing.
- Maturity: 76 days

Money Maker - OPV

- This is an indeterminate vigorous, tall growing variety. The fruits are bright red, medium size, round, very smooth with firm flesh.
- It is a very popular fresh market variety with a mature fruit weighing 100 g, although largest fruits can weigh over 140 g.
- It takes about 75 - 80 days to mature.

Tengeru - OPV

- This is an indeterminate variety with round to oblate shape
- The fruit size weighs 100 - 125 g
- Flesh Thickness is 0.75 cm
- Resistance to Root Knot Nematodes, Tomato mottle Virus & Fusarium Wilt
- Maturity: 95 - 100 days
- Yield 60 - 80 t/ha

Flora Dade - OPV

- This variety has large determinate plants that mature in about 70 - 80 days.
- It has multiple disease resistance or tolerance to fusarium and verticillium wilt.
- This variety produces red fruits that are firm, uniformly extra-large and smooth with a deep oblate shape with green shoulders. The tall, vigorous plant has excellent foliage and fruit cover.

Management

- Seed rate: 100 - 150 g/acre for transplanting
- Plant Spacing: 80 cm × 40 cm
- Tomato can be directly sown or transplanted in the field. Raising young transplants in the nursery enables growers to obtain uniform seedlings and to check earlier diseases and pests.
- Young seedlings require ample water to sustain good healthy growth. Seedlings are ready for transplanting when 3 - 4 weeks old. They should be thoroughly watered 12 - 14 hours before they are lifted for transplanting to avoid damage to the root systems. Transplanting should be done in the afternoon.
- Fertilizer for tomato should be fairly rich in phosphorous. Excess nitrogen is associated with excessive vegetative growth; fruits puffiness and blossom end rot disease. Use NPK, N: 80 - 180 kg/ha, P: 80 - 200 kg/ha, K: 80 - 200 kg/ha or 40 tons of FYM/ha. All required P, half N and half K should be applied at planting time. The remaining half of the required N and K should be side-dressed a month after transplanting.
- Control weeds by applying pre-emergence herbicides like glyphosate (Victoria - sate) before transplanting is supplemented by the manual weeding and mulching the beds with straw.
- Crop rotation with non solanaceous crops is recommended to reduce soil

borne diseases and pests. Constancy of water supply plays a major role in attaining a uniform maturity and reducing the incidence of blossom – end rot, a physiological disorder resulting from irregular water supply and the resulting calcium deficiency and the fruit during the enlargement

Note:

- For all the indeterminate varieties, stakes of about 2m length should be used to prevent lodging of plants and minimize occurrences of soil borne diseases. The plant should be staked when it is fully established after transplanting.
- Diseases and pest control:
- Use tolerant varieties to reduce bacterial wilt e.g. Makis and Tejas
- Long term crop rotation e.g. with cereals.
- Control bacterial leaf spot disease by using copper fungicides.
- Fungicides like Diathane M45, Milraz remain the only means to control early and late blight
- Root knot nematodes invade non-hosts like amaranths, grasses increasing the organic matter content into the soil will control the nematodes.

WATERMELON

Sugar Baby - OPV

- This is the most popular variety due to its early maturity, small size, high yield potential and drought resistance.
- Fruits are nearly round, weighing about 4Kg.
- The skin of the fruit is very dark green with faintly even darker stripes and bluish wax cover. Rind or outer covering is medium thick and hard.
- The flesh is red and very sweet when fully mature.
- This variety takes 65 – 90 days to mature.

Management

- Seed rate: 2kg/ha for direct sowing
- Plant Spacing: 175 cm × 50 cm
- Watermelon is directly seeded. A wide crop rotation of up to 4 years is essential to avoid the damage by soil borne diseases and pests. The movement of the crop should be reduced to prevent plant damage. Stems are trimmed to prevent excessive dense vegetative growth.
- Pests and diseases control prevent fusarium wilt by wide crop rotation of up to 6 years, ensuring the good drainage and using tolerant varieties. Dithiocarbamates and organic fungicides can control anthracnose. Gummy stem blight can be controlled with fungicides. Insects/pests like thrips, aphids, fruit fly, cucumber beetle, red pumpkin beetle can be controlled by spraying insecticides e.g. ambush and thionex.

FRENCH BEANS

Lazy housewife

- Bush annual herb with tender green pods. Yields up to 7 – 8 tons/ha
- Maturity: 65 days
- Seed rate: 100 kg/ha
- Spacing: 60 cm × 20 cm
- During the vegetative stage, weeds should be vigorously controlled to prevent competition for nutrient between crop and weed and also because the weeds are sometimes alternative disease hosts. Overhead irrigation is recommended if certified disease free seed has been sown and if aphids and thrips are a problem

- Fertilizer application: Apply DAP 50 kg/acre at planting. Excess nitrogen will predispose the crop to bacterial blight and aphid infestation. In acid soils, tri calcium phosphate may be applied in the furrow before sowing while in alkaline soils, triple super phosphate should be used. Direct contact between seed and fertilizer should be avoided.
- Pests and disease control
- Damping off can be controlled by treating seed with appropriate fungicides. Most soil borne diseases are controlled by continuous and long crop rotation or leave the land fallow for several seasons. The use of certified free seeds is critical in averting the introduction of diseases into new fields.

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