SOUTH PACIFIC SEEDS

SUMMER UPDATE 2003

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ENZA ZADEN · PETOSEED · ROYAL SLUIS

IMPROVING CAPSICUM PRODUCTION

During the months of September and October Herman visited greenhouse production regions in Holland and Spain. Herman met with a range of producers and also many of our breeding partners for capsicum, tomato and cucumber. There are certainly some exciting new products coming from our breeding partners that will continue to add value to your greenhouse program. Of special note are the developments in Capsicum where its continued popularity with consumers has encouraged breeders to develop new types. Two such introductions are the tomato sized and shaped capsicums **TWEETY** and **CALIMERO** that produce a prolific number of fruits. **TWEETY** and **CALIMERO** are popular with both the niche professional producer looking to entice customers with these speciality capsicums and also hobby growers do not have to wait so long to be picking tasty mini capsicums.

In the main capsicum market for export and domestic markets, the drive has been for a higher yield of capsicums while still maintaining strong tolerance to BER and micro cracking. This has been a challenge for ENZA ZADEN'S plant breeders to bring in these traits with little or no deterioration in quality. They have been successful, with introductions such as **SPECIAL** and **FIESTA**, and now they add to this assortment our new green to red variety **EXPRES** and an orange variety **PRESIDENT**.

PRESIDENT

TWEETY AND CALIMERO

EXPRES – Herman in Holland recently, checking out Expres capsicums.

EXPRES starts off as deep dark green coloured fruits that are perfect for picking for green production and performs well for high production and good quality. **PRESIDENT** has proven worthy of inclusion into the orange production segment from the initial trials in Europe over the past few seasons and in our own New Zealand trials this season.

SPS have an expanding range of capsicums and we have been working very hard to ensure that we are developing varieties that meet the local New Zealand demands of our climate and market. For further information on how the new variety advances can help your production please contact Herman any time.

CAPSICUMS

The new introduction, **PRESIDENT**, is a high performance orange blocky capsicum. **PRESIDENT** is performing well in trials around New Zealand. The powerful plant has TM3 resistance and is more vigorous than previous orange varieties from South Pacific Seeds.

PRESIDENT is comparable with Boogie for high vigour, production and crop density. Our trials have shown **PRESIDENT** to be a good performer for the New Zealand blocky orange market. The average fruit weight is 215grams.

Advantages of growing **PRESIDENT** are:

- earlier production by one week;
- very glossy fruit, stronger setting;
- more uniform colouration of fruit;
- darker green intermediate colour;
- extended storage.

ASSESSING CAPSICUMS IN SPAIN
at the ENZA Research Station.

EXPRES was introduced this year as an improved, high yielding Spirit type. The plant habit is more vigorous than **SPIRIT** but has a powerful setting ability. The plant is less compact than **SPIRIT** but the open habit makes plant training easy. The fruit is darker green and has a deeper red colour. **EXPRES** fruit size is approximately 190 grams and has the characteristic square blocky shape similar to **SPIRIT**. The **EXPRES** favours more vegetative conditions than **SPECIAL**, but current trials with plants among **SPECIAL** are showing good results.

During this season growers with **SPECIAL** have been rewarded with excellent yields of top quality fruit. The very high packout rate of **SPECIAL** is a great advantage in an export market such as New Zealand. **SPECIAL** has significantly less Blossom End Rot during adverse conditions than other varieties. The low reject rate means more fruit can be exported to keep more fruit off the local market and therefore, prevent dumping onto these markets. This market leader is known for its uniform shape and glossy appearance. Even under adverse conditions, **SPECIAL** will power through with superb quality and far less blemishes than other varieties.

Yellow variety **FIESTA** has proven once more that it will handle every cropping situation with ease. It is very easy to grow uniform fruits and keep the plant in balance. The plant habit is vigorous and open, reducing labour costs. **FIESTA** has a strong setting ability that allows easy management. The bright yellow blocky fruit is strong against Blossom End Rot and micro splitting.

PRESIDENT

SPIRIT

FINESSE

CUCUMBER

Telegraph cucumbers for year round production – you will find it hard to pass the Nickerson Zwaan breeding program for quality and reliability.

In the warm season use **CARMEN**, and for the cool season, use **POLARIS** and **TELEOS** – the use of these two will depend on your actual planting time. **POLARIS** is more suited for mid-winter production whilst **TELEOS** fits best coming into, and going out of winter. Many growers are choosing to grow **CARMEN** all year round as it gives a reliable production in all periods of the year. Initially selected for the warmer months, **CARMEN** has the vigour to produce quality cucumbers right through the short, cold winter days in Canterbury. Herman will assist you in ensuring you select the correct variety to suit your individual requirements.

ASIAN VEGETABLES

South Pacific Seeds are continuing product assortment expansion in the Asian vegetable range. We have varieties for both the bunching and baby leaf markets. Leading the way we have selected a slower bolting, Mei Quing Choi type, green stemmed pak choi hybrid known as **SUMO**. This is a very uniform pak choi selection. **SUMO** has fast become a favourite with growers as it's slower bolting and high recovery has resulted in improved production.

Other varieties in our range now include **OKURA CROSS** – a slow bolting type hybrid radish, a vigorous grower with long cylindrical white roots. **MATILDA** is a medium-sized wong bok type with slow bolting characteristics. **MATILDA** features excellent uniformity with good tolerance to internal black spots. The range now includes **CHOY SUM**, **TATSOI**, **MIZUNA**, **MIBUNA**, **CORIANDER** and a range of new mustard types.

SPINACH

DARKEE is the biggest sensation to hit the New Zealand spinach market since **RHYTHM** first stole the hearts of spinach growers in the early 1990's. **DARKEE** is an oriental smooth leaf type with a very erect and dark green leaf. **DARKEE** is very fast to mature and suits both Babyleaf and Bunching markets. **DARKEE** with its erect habit that suits machine harvest for processing and babyleaf whilst the thick, pointed, dark green leaves are winter hardy and have made **DARKEE** a favourite with growers and consumers alike. For the transition from summer to winter you cannot go past **ASTI**, our new smooth leaf with pf1-7, that has been well proven in the Autumn period.

SPECIALTY LETTUCE

Our specialty lettuce has really matured over the past 12 months into a large range of exciting new introductions that appeal to both the producer and the consumer.

Leading the way has been **CANCAN**, the green frill lettuce that produces very dark green leaves with a very fine serration right down to the base.

PANDERO – Baby red cos with dark glossy red combining well with a green base and yellow heart.

ALLENIA – This variety is a coral type that is very vigorous and produces dark red leaves. Lollo Rossa type.

EXTASE – A new selection with excellent red colour and strong vigour. Medium sized well filled head with a shiny texture. In trials to date it has shown tolerance to bolting and can be used for continuity of cropping outdoors throughout the season.

RED and GREEN FRILLICE

A summary of our commercial offerings:

Variety	Type	Colour	Comment
Red Frillice	Red frill	Red +	Many leaves
Frillice	Green frill	Green	Compact
Allenia	Lolla Rossa	Red+++	Bright red
CanCan	Green frill	Green	Fine leaves
Pandero	Romaine/Cos	Red++	Brilliant colour contrast
Fristina	Green frill	Green	Volumous leaves
Djembe	Romaine/Cos	Green	Very dark green
Extase	Red Oakleaf	Red++	Vigorous
Cascade	Green frill	Green	Monet type

CHARLOTTE ASSESSING TRIALS.

PANDERO

TOMATO

CAMPARI

CAMPARI – recent Lincoln University studies carried out on tomatoes produced by a large Canterbury tomato producer showed that not only does our tasty tomato **CAMPARI** taste good, it was found to have a higher level of vitamin C than other varieties tested. **CAMPARI** has been gaining more appreciation in the market place with consumers looking for tomatoes with improved taste. This research proves that not only will you find improved flavour in **CAMPARI** but also improved vitamin C levels. For more details on these test results and other research that has been carried out at Lincoln University, please contact SPS.

FLAVOURINE

FLAVOURINE is the leading tomato for pre-pack. Many growers are using this variety for their pre-pack and truss markets; FLAVOUR sets this variety apart from the pretenders. Once you combine the improved flavour, the high yields and the excellent fruit quality, you cannot help but be impressed by your high dollar return per square metre for **FLAVOURINE**. If your trend is the same as other users of **FLAVOURINE**, not only will you have higher repeat sales for your brand, but also an improved profit per square metre.

CLAREE

CLAREE is an excellent glasshouse cherry tomato with split trusses, open plant habit and high yield. The fruit weight is between 12 and 18 grams and has strong resistance against cracking and a high brix.

PITENZA is an excellent truss tomato. The average fruit weight is 100-120 grams. The fruits are round, firm, have a bright red colour and an excellent shelf life. **PITENZA** is a strong plant with excellent setting under hot or cold conditions. This variety is set apart from others due to its "cricket ball-like" firmness at the mature red stage. The high quality "fish bone" truss sets **PITENZA** up as the variety of choice for the mid sized truss market.

HERMAN ASSESSING PITENZA TOMATOES.

CAULIFLOWER

It has been a challenge for SPS to develop varieties for winter cauliflower production that will take over from long-time performers such as Snow March and Atlantis. These varieties have been very difficult to beat by many cauliflower breeders. Following this seasons trials in New Zealand and similar results from our trials in Victoria, Tasmania and Perth, we now feel that we can offer you two new selections that look set to compete very well in the mid-winter time frame.

We have to be very cautious as the winters in New Zealand can be unpredictable, either mild or severely cold. We have the chance now to look at two new introductions: **COLVIN** a mid winter type with a vigorous frame and good curd cover and **SPS576-1** a brand new hybrid from Royal Sluis with excellent curd cover and frost tolerance. SPS will be testing these varieties in small commercial productions this winter, if you are looking to improve your winter cauliflower production, please contact Charlotte.

CABBAGE

SPS 555-9

The mini and mid-size cabbage is creating interest in New Zealand from growers and markets alike. We define the mini cabbage at the weight of 700-900 grams at maturity and the midi at 900 grams to 1.6 kg. The midi cabbage possibly has greater grower appeal as it yields much higher than the mini. In the mini cabbage range, we have recently tested a variety of new hybrids with features such as bolting tolerance, field holding ability, sweet flavour and short cores. In the midi range **SPS 555-9** has been the standout performer with good tolerance to bolting and excellent field holding ability. We have commercial quantities of **SPS 555-9** available now. For trials of any of these lines, please contact SPS or for more technical details, please contact Charlotte directly on 021 301 677.

BROCCOLI

Our winter trials in 2002 revealed to us that **EVERGREEN** is a most consistent performer in this period in the milder regions in the North Island. **EVERGREEN** produced excellent heads from April right through until late November. The fine bead, high dome and dark green head has made **EVERGREEN** the grower and market favourite for this time frame in cooler regions of the North Island. In the South Island we recommend **EVERGREEN** for the Autumn and early winter period. For the late Winter and Spring you should use **MARATHON** or the new improvement from Sakata for this period **TRIATHLON**.

TRIATHLON is our most tolerant variety to blindness and whilst not resistant, is most recommended for the mid-winter sowings. **TRIATHLON** cut very well in all our winter trials in every region this year and is a main contender for those looking for improvements over other varieties in that time frame.

For complete technical information on the subjects raised in this newsletter or on how to get the best from your SPS vegetable variety selection, please contact our regional team of agronomists.

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Disclaimer

The information provided is based on an average of data and observations collected from our trials. Significant variations may occur in the performance due to a range of conditions including cultural/management practices, climate, soil type, and geographic location. As a consequence South Pacific Seeds cannot accept liability as to the accuracy of this information.