ADORE

F1 Hybrid Sweet Melon

P.B.R.

OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- **VERY GOOD INTERNAL QUALITY**
- **FIRM, SWEET FLESH**
- **AVERAGE FRUIT WEIGHT OF 1.5 – 2.0 KG**
- **VERY HIGH YIELD POTENTIAL**

Adore is an Eastern Shipper type melon, competing directly against varieties such as Athena. **Adore** has vigorous plants with good fruit set and high resistance against Powdery mildew race 1 and 2 (Px: 1, 2) (ex Sf) and Fusarium wilt race 2 and 3 (Fom: 2, 3). Because **Adore's** fruit are slightly smaller than that of Divine, **Adore** may be used for warm season production and Divine for cooler seasons.

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- Sufficient potassium and calcium when fruit begin to develop is important for improved shelf life and flavour
- Contact area representative for the correct time to harvest
- We recommend planting in spring and summer in order for the fruit to develop during warm weather for the best size and quality

CHARACTERISTIC*	ADORE
KIND	F1 hybrid sweet melon (*Cucumis melo* L.)
TYPE	Eastern Shipper
MATURITY	70 - 80 days (after sowing during the warm season)
GROWTH HABIT	Trailing
PLANT VIGOUR	Good
SEASON	Warm
FRUIT SIZE	Weight: 1.5 – 2.0 kg Dimension: 13 x 17 cm
FRUIT SHAPE	Oval
FRUIT SEED CAVITY	Small
FLESH COLOUR	Salmon-orange
SUGAR CONTENT	High, 11 – 14 % brix
FLAVOUR	Excellent: sweet with good flavour
RIND COLOUR	Yellow with white netting when ripe
SUTURES	None
STEM-END SLIPPING	Easy
UNIFORMITY	Excellent
LEAF COVER	Good
DISEASE REACTION (SCIENTIFIC)	***High resistance:*** *Podosphaera xanthii (ex Sphaerotheca fuliginea) races 1 and 2 (Px: 1, 2) (ex Sf) and Fusarium oxysporum f. sp melonis races 2 and 3 (Fom: 2, 3)*
POPULATION GUIDE	12 000 – 15 000 final stand per ha
MARKET / END USE	Fresh market
SPECIAL FEATURES	Large, uniform fruit

* Characteristics given are affected by production methods such as soil type, nutrition, planting population, planting date and climatic conditions. Please read disclaimer.

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GENERAL TIPS FOR SWEET MELON PRODUCTION

Bees and pollination
Melon plants have separate male and female flowers on the same plant. Female flowers only last one day and need to be visited by bees several times to enable fruit set. Bees are the main pollinators and must therefore be placed as close as possible to the melon crop. Poor pollination results in reduced yields and an increased percentage of misshapen fruits. Check blooming fields late morning on sunny, warm days – if the bee activity is light – provide beehives. One strong colony of bees per 4 – 5 hectares is normally sufficient. If an insecticide application is required on the melon crop or nearby fields, do it late in the afternoon when the bee activity has ceased. Place beehives up wind from the melon crop in order to limit the possibility of insecticide drift. Apply insecticides carefully during flowering.

Disease resistance definition
Resistance: is the ability of a plant variety to restrict the growth and development of a specified pest or pathogen and/or the damage they cause when compared to susceptible plant varieties under similar environmental conditions and pest or pathogen pressure. Resistant varieties may exhibit some disease symptoms or damage under heavy pest or pathogen pressure. Two levels of resistance are defined:

High/standard resistance (HR): plant varieties that highly restrict the growth and development of the specified pest or pathogen under normal pest or pathogen pressure when compared to susceptible varieties. These plant varieties may, however, exhibit some symptoms or damage under heavy pest or pathogen pressure.

Moderate/intermediate resistance (IR): plant varieties that restrict the growth and development of the specified pest or pathogen, but may exhibit a greater range of symptoms or damage compared to resistant varieties. Moderately/intermediately resistant plant varieties will still show less severe symptoms or damage than susceptible plant varieties when grown under similar environmental conditions and/or pest or pathogen pressure.

Stimulation of female flowers
Stimulation of female flowers can be managed as follows:

Seed treatment: Soaking seed for 24 hours in a solution of 0.05% boron and manganese solution, agitated with air bubbles in the water, may result in faster emergence, more female flowers and higher yields.

Fruit pruning: Damage, misshapen and culled fruit should be pruned as soon as detected. Cull fruit cannot be marketed and will restrict development of the marketable fruit.

Trimming of runners after fruit set: One melon plant will seldom set more than 4 – 5 fruit per plant. It may therefore be important to trim an actively growing runner once the crop is set. In warm dry conditions the actively growing tips of the runners become a strong sink for nutrients needed for fruit growth and quality, and need to be suppressed. Cut back growth tips to ensure side shoot development for female flower development. In a worse case, the first fruit can be pruned to stimulate side shoot development for more female flowers.

General practices: Ideal plant population is 16 000 plants per hectare. Very high densities will result in a decrease of female flowers. A well-balanced fertigation program will increase the proportion of female flowers. A constant supply of micro-elements will also increase the female flower proportion.

Harvest maturity
Cantaloupes are picked when physiological mature and ripe:
- The flesh colour has reached a mid-pinkish to orange colour and slightly translucent
- Flesh texture must be firm, but not crunchy and not glossy
- The membrane in the seed cavity should be moist and starting to detached from the ovary wall

Storage and transport conditions
Ideal storage temperature is between 2.2 - 5°C and must be kept **constant** to be effective. Storage life can be up to 15 days at 2.2°C, but sensory quality will deteriorate. Practical long distance transportation temperatures are between 12 – 15°C. 4- 7 days of shelf life are attainable within the optimum range. Storage or transport temperatures below 12 – 15°C may result in chilling injury after several days, due to the fruit being subjected to a wide range of temperature fluctuations.

Ideal storage humidity is between 90 – 95 %. High relative humidity is essential to maximize post-harvest quality and to prevent desiccation. Water loss through scuffed and damaged surfaces can be significant. Extended periods of higher humidity or condensation may encourage the growth of stem scar and surface moulds.

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