P.B.R.

BARNACLE BILL

F1 Hybrid Hubbard Squash

OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- **VERY HIGH YIELD POTENTIAL**
- **GOOD SHELF LIFE AND INTERIOR QUALITY**
- **EXTRA EARLY**
- **LARGE FRUIT**

Barnacle Bill has proved to be a tremendous advantage to growers requiring early superior quality Hubbard squashes, as it matures up to 10 days earlier than Chicago Warted Hubbard. Seedling vigour is significantly superior to that of standard varieties. Plants are vigorous with indeterminate vines. The yield potential is very good, generally being much higher than standard varieties. **Barnacle Bill** has the potential to bear over a longer period. The variety is widely adapted and the overall vigour of this variety tends to make it less susceptible to diseases. The fruits are slightly larger than Chicago Warted Hubbard, averaging between 7 and 9 kg weight and 20 % of the fruit are extra large. The rind is dark grey green in colour with medium warts. **Barnacle Bill** flesh is deep yellow in colour, dry and thick. Taste is very sweet and nutty. Holding ability and shelf life are superior to standard varieties.

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- None

CHARACTERISTIC*	BARNACLE BILL
KIND	F1 hybrid squash (*Cucurbita maxima* Duchesne)
TYPE	Hubbard squash
MATURITY	Early (85 - 100 days after sowing)
SEASON	Widely adapted for production after danger of frost has passed
PLANT TYPE	Strong vine
FRUIT SHAPE	Bulky Hubbard shape
FRUIT SIZE	Large to very large: 7 – 9 kg
FRUIT SURFACE	Warted
FRUIT FLESH	Thick and firm
FRUIT COLOUR	Internal: Deep yellow External: Dark grey green
SEED CAVITY	Large
YIELD POTENTIAL	Approximately 15 – 40 tons per ha
SHELF LIFE	Very good
UNIFORMITY	Very good
PLANT SPACING GUIDE	2 m between rows x 1 m in rows
POPULATION GUIDE	5 000 final stand per ha
AVERAGE SEED COUNT	3 100 – 4 300 seeds per kg
SEED REQUIREMENT	2.0 – 3.0 kg per ha
MARKETS/END USE	Fresh market, cuts, processing
SPECIAL FEATURES	High yield and uniform, large fruit

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

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GENERAL TIPS FOR SQUASH PRODUCTION

Climatic requirements
The important factors regarding climatic requirements for pumpkins and squashes are soil temperature, air temperature and humidity.

Soil temperatures
Squashes are warm-season crops and perform best when soil and air temperatures are above 15 °C. Above 15 °C, seedlings should emerge within seven days. Seed germinates poorly below 13 °C and requires two to three weeks to emerge. No germination takes place at temperatures below 10 °C. Seed may decay before germination if planted in cold, wet soils.

The optimum soil temperature for root development is 20 °C. Black plastic on raised beds will speed soil warming and can dramatically increase early and total yields. Seed or transplants can be planted through the plastic by hand or with machinery designed for direct seeding through plastic.

Air temperature
Vegetative growth, flowering and fruit-set are greatly affected by temperature. Cucurbits are sensitive to frost and are injured at temperatures below 0 °C. Almost no growth takes place at temperatures below 15 °C, but rapid growth takes place at temperatures between 18 and 27 °C. Plants generally grow more luxuriantly at higher temperatures.
Relatively low temperatures and short daylight periods promote the formation of more female flowers in relation to male flowers. As temperature and daylight period increase, the process is reversed. At extremely high temperatures only male flowers may be formed. Temperatures have an important effect on dehiscence of the pollen sac. This applies especially to the minimum temperature, as pollen will still be released above the optimum temperature but not below the minimum temperature.
The length of the growing season is determined by temperature. This fact must be kept in mind when plantings are planned. Early plantings are subjected to relatively low temperatures at the beginning of the growth period, while late plantings, on the other hand, are subjected to relatively low night temperatures at the end of the growth period. Under these conditions the period of the crop on the land is extended. The length of the growing season for squash from planting to harvesting can be between 85 and 120 days, depending on the variety and growth conditions.

Humidity
Squash prefer long periods of warm dry weather. Areas with a high humidity during the growing season can be troubled with fungal diseases especially if the moist period occurs at the end of the growing season. Pumpkins, cucumbers and squashes are less sensitive to these diseases than watermelons and muskmelons. In these areas production is dependent on a highly efficient spraying programme. A long rainy period just before or during harvesting can cause the fruit to rot, especially on the heavier types of soil.

Plantings must be planned in such a way that flowering does not occur during periods when cool, cloudy or moist weather is expected. Bees do not work under such conditions with the result that pollination and fruit-set will be poor.
- Regular inspections and an effective spray programme
- Planting time
- Planting against wind direction

Prevention against wind damage
Developing squash fruit have thin sensitive skins, which damage and mark easily. These permanent marks negatively affect the price of the final product.

Plant spacing guide: Distance between plants in the row

Between row spacing	Plant population/ha		
	3500	5000	6000
2.0 m	125 cm	100 cm	80 cm
2.5 m	115 cm	80 cm	65 cm

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