

# FLAT WHITE BOER FORD

## Pumpkin

### OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- ◆ SELECTED FOR ITS UNIFORMITY AND YIELD
- ◆ STORES WELL
- ◆ GOOD SHIPPING QUALITIES
- ◆ VIGOROUS GROWTH WITH A GOOD YIELD POTENTIAL



**Flat White Boer Ford** is a selection of Flat White Boer. The yield potential is good and fruit are much more uniform than other open pollinated Flat Boer types. The growth habit is trailing and the vigorous vines of the plants at a spacing of 90 cm in the rows and 200 – 270 cm between rows soon cover the surface. **Flat White Boer Ford** responds positively to organic fertilising material such as cattle manure placed in the planting rows. The leaf growth affords good protection to the fruit. However the white rind is itself able to withstand sunburn and the fruit are often left in the field until the foliage has died back for maximum growth and maturity. The fruit is flat, with slight ribbing and a medium-sized crown. The flesh is medium orange and thick. The flavour is sweet and eating quality is excellent as the flesh is firm and fairly dry when cooked. The shelf life is good. When stored, the area should be well ventilated, cool and dry. The rind is tough which makes this variety a good shipper and able to take handling well.

### SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- Do not apply too much nitrogen towards fruit maturation

CHARACTERISTIC*	FLAT WHITE BOER FORD
KIND	Pumpkin ( <i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duchesne.)
TYPE	White-skinned pumpkin
MATURITY	Late (115 – 125 days from direct sowing)
SEASON	Widely adapted for production after danger of frost has passed
PLANT TYPE	Trailing indeterminate vine
FRUIT SHAPE	Flat
FRUIT SIZE	Medium to large, 7 - 8 kg
FRUIT RIBBING	Medium
FRUIT FLESH	Thick and even, firm texture
FLESH COLOUR	Medium orange
RIND COLOUR	White
SEED CAVITY	Medium
STORAGE ABILITY	Good
UNIFORMITY	Good
PLANT SPACING GUIDE	1.6 – 2.7 m between rows, for in-row spacing see page 2
POPULATION GUIDE	Dry land: 3 500 final stand per ha Under irrigation: 5 000 – 6 000 final stand per ha
AVERAGE SEED COUNT	4 000 – 5 000 seeds per kg
MARKETS / END USE	Fresh market, pre-packing, processing
SPECIAL FEATURES	Large fruit, also suitable for home gardens

\* 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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**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 (HR = High resistance, IR = Intermediate resistance).

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## GENERAL TIPS FOR PUMPKIN PRODUCTION

### Soil Requirements

Pumpkins produce best on well-drained, fertile soil. The plants produce large, shallow root systems very rapidly in the top 20 - 25 cm of soil, which should be prepared into a firm, well-fertilized seedbed. Squash and pumpkins do well in soils where 25 - 30 tonnes of well-rotted manure has been applied per hectare. To help avoid soil-borne disease problems, select fields that have not had other vine crops, tomatoes or peppers for at least three years.

As far as soil acidity is concerned, cucurbits are moderately sensitive to acidic soils. Good results can be expected over a range of pH values extending from 5.5 - 7.5 (H<sub>2</sub>O). If the soil pH is lower than 5.5, dolomitic lime should be applied in accordance with the analytic findings. Lime should be ploughed in four weeks or more before the planting season.

### Examination of the soil

The ideal soil depth for cucurbits, particularly pumpkins, is 900 mm and deeper. These crops should not be cultivated on soils less than 450 mm deep. The highest concentration of roots is found in the top 300 mm of soil. Tillage banks and impenetrable layers occurring at less than 450 mm should be broken with a sub-soiler.

The fertiliser and lime requirements are determined by a laboratory analysis of a representative soil sample. In view of the fact that lime should be applied at least 4 - 8 weeks before planting the soil sample should be submitted for analysis by a soil scientist as early as possible. Disregard of the lime requirement can be the cause of a severe reduction in yield.

### Crop rotation

The main purpose of a rotational system is to combat soil-borne diseases and pests associated with specific crops. Systems are often designed to include a green-manure crop in order to increase the organic content of a soil. Cucurbits may follow any unrelated vegetable in a rotational system. The potato is an exception as there is some evidence that certain *Fusarium* species attack both cucurbits and potatoes. Grasses or grain crops, such as Oats in the Western Cape and babala in the hot areas of the Limpopo Province are the most suitable green-manure crops. Nematodes or any of the diseases associated with vegetable crops does not generally attack them. These crops should be ploughed in while they are still green and at least 8 weeks before planting.

### Protection against sunburn

Cultivars with dark skinned fruit are highly susceptible to sunburn. The most effective protection is obtained when the fruit is totally covered by foliage, which is brought about by the application of sound production practices. Branches, straw, chaff, etc. can also be used to cover fruit but this practice is labour-intensive and not very effective in windy areas.

### Prevention of disease

Diseases can be prevented to a large extent by the following:

- Rotational cropping
- Use of disease-free seed
- Good drainage
- Regular inspections and an effective spray programme
- Planting time
- Planting against wind direction

### Prevention of insect damage

Fields should be inspected regularly and particular attention should be paid to pumpkin fly.

### Prevention against wind damage

Developing pumpkin and squash fruit have thin sensitive skins, which damage and mark easily. These permanent marks negatively affect the price of the final product. Many producers are therefore growing windbreaks to reduce wind damage

### Plant spacing guide: Distance between plants in the row:

Between row spacing	Plant population		
	3500	5000	6000
1.6 m	179 cm	125 cm	104 cm
2.0 m	125 cm	100 cm	80 cm
2.5 m	115 cm	80 cm	65 cm

### Susceptibility definition:

Susceptibility (S) is the inability of a plant variety to restrict the growth and development of a specified pest or pathogen.

### Tolerance definition:

Tolerance (T) is the ability of a plant variety to endure **abiotic stress** without serious consequences for growth, appearance and yield. Vegetable companies will continue to use tolerance for abiotic stress.

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