MONICA

F1 Hybrid Determinate Saladette Tomato

OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- **LARGE, ATTRACTIVE FRUIT**
- **VERY HIGH YIELD POTENTIAL**
- **OUTSTANDING FRUIT QUALITY**
- **MULTIPLE DISEASE RESISTANCE**

Monica is a prolific, determinate saladette type tomato. It is widely adapted and offers excellent fruit setting. **Monica** has high resistance against Verticillium wilt race 1 (Vd: 1), Fusarium wilt races 1 and 2 (Fol: 1 - 2) and intermediate resistance against Alternaria stem canker (Aal), Gray leaf spot (Ss) and Bacterial speck (Pst). Blocky fruits are slightly elongated, with a shiny, bright red colour and weigh 120 – 220 g. **Monica** is recommended for long distance transportation if harvested when the fruit has a red colour spot on shoulder.

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Monica** performs best in winter in frost-free areas
- **Harvest if the fruit has a red spot on the shoulder**

CHARACTERISTIC*	MONICA
KIND	F1 hybrid tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* L.)
TYPE	Determinate saladette
FIRMNESS	Good to very good
MATURITY	Medium
SEASON	Winter culture in frost-free areas
FRUIT WEIGHT	120 - 220 g
FRUIT SHAPE	Blocky
ATTACHMENT POINT	Small, neat
FRUIT COLOUR	Fruit shoulder very light green turning red. Excellent internal and external colour
UNIFORMITY	Very good
LEAF COVER	Excellent
DISEASE REACTION (SCIENTIFIC)	***High resistance:*** *Verticillium dahliae race 1 (Vd: 1), Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. lycopersici races 1 and 2 (Fol: 1 - 2)* ***Intermediate resistance:*** *Alternaria alternata f. sp. lycopersici (Aal), Stemphylium solani (Ss) and Pseudomonas syringae pv. tomato (Pst)*
MARKETS / END USE	Processing and fresh market
POPULATION GUIDE	15 000 – 24 000 final stand per ha
SPECIAL FEATURES	High yield potential, suggested for production in winter

* 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 TOMATO PRODUCTION

Climatic requirements
Monica is the choice for winter production and produces high quality fruit between 120 - 220 g in the cooler temperatures. Do not plant any varieties where there is a risk of frost conditions, this will damage the plant and cause yield losses.

Cultural methods
Trellising of Monica can be well rewarded. Good results are also achieved without staking and if care is taken not to damage the plant during harvest, the plant can sustain production over a longer period. The suggested plant population of Monica would be between 15 000 and 24 000 plants per hectare depending of the time of transplanting.

Harvesting
Monica sets a lot of fruit at the beginning and keeps on setting fruit longer than normal saladette tomatoes. As the first fruit start ripening, the plant is still flowering and thus has the ability to set and produce more fruit once the first fruit have been harvested.

Marketing
The superior quality fruit of Monica makes this a must for fresh market saladette production. The fruit of this variety can be used for added value marketing where extra attention will be place on packaging. The fruit has excellent firmness, taste, shelf life and produces a large attractive fruit.

Fertilisation
Monica can be managed on a standard fertiliser program recommended for saladette tomatoes, but enough nitrogen should be applied in the beginning in order to build a proper frame to carry the fruit load. The variety has a vigorous growth habit.

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.

N-deficiency
Conditions favoring the appearance of Nitrogen (N) deficiency in tomato plants
- Leaching rains
- Soils with low organic matter
- Restricted substrate volume
- Inadequate fertiliser

Symptoms
- Spindly plant
- Lower leaves appear yellowish green
- In severe cases the entire plant is pale green
- Major veins show a purple colour
- Small fruit

The ideal soil analysis for growing tomatoes would compare to:

pH(H_2O)	5,6
Phosphate	60 mg kg^{-1} (Bray 1)
Potassium	100-250 mg kg^{-1}
Calcium	300-2 000 mg kg^{-1}
Magnesium	120-300 mg kg^{-1}
Sodium	10-50 mg kg^{-1}

The range test
This is a vigor test, and is designed to give the seedling grower additional information about the lot's potential to perform at a range of temperatures (above and below ideal). As with the germination test, all other factors remain constant, it is only the temperature that varies. Both the radicle count and the final germination count are provided for 6 test temperatures after 120 hours. In nurseries where germination rooms are not used the range test should be looked at very carefully and temperatures should be monitored to insure good germination. It can be possible that the radicle count is higher than the final germination count, as some seeds that do produce a radicle, may turn out to be abnormal. If this is the case the lower count between the two should be used. Ask your representative for a copy of a lot specific range test.

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