



OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- ◆ SMALL HOKKAIDO TYPE
- ◆ EARLY MATURING
- ◆ GOOD YIELD POTENTIAL

Colinky is an early maturing Hokkaido type squash with very high yield potential. The uniformity and aesthetics are exceptional. Fruit matures to a deep orange rind colour and has a deep orange internal flesh colour. The flesh is very firm and has a sweet taste and excellent flavour. **Colinky** stores very well. Plants are medium strong and produce good yields in mid-density plantings. **Colinky** can be used as an ornamental squash but is very well suited for culinary purposes.

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- Contact area representative for more information

CHARACTERISTIC*	COLINKY
KIND	F1 Hybrid squash (<i>Cucurbita maxima</i>)
TYPE	Hokkaido squash
MATURITY	Early, around 65 - 75 days from direct sowing
SEASON	Widely adapted for production after danger of frost has passed
PLANT TYPE	Mid strong vining
FRUIT SHAPE	Hubbard
FRUIT SIZE	0.8 – 1.5 kg
FRUIT RIBBING	Slight ribbing
FRUIT FLESH	Very firm
FLESH COLOUR	Deep orange
RIND COLOUR	Deep orange
SEED CAVITY	Medium
STORAGE ABILITY	Good
UNIFORMITY	Excellent
PLANT SPACING GUIDE	1.6 - 2.0 m between rows, for in-row spacing see page 2
POPULATION GUIDE	6 000 - 10 000 final stand per ha
MARKETS / END USE	Fresh market, pre-pack and export
SPECIAL FEATURES	Unique product

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

Disclaimer: This information is based on our observations and/or information from other sources. As crop performance depends on the interaction between the genetic potential of the seed, its physiological characteristics, and the environment, including management, we give no warranty express or implied, for the performance of crops relative to the information given nor do we accept any liability for any loss, direct or consequential, that may arise from whatsoever cause. Please read the Sakata Seed Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd Conditions of Sale before ordering seed. **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).

* **Experimental:** This variety does not appear on the current South African Variety list, but has been submitted for registration.

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GENERAL TIPS FOR SQUASH PRODUCTION

Seedling production

The majority of pumpkins are direct seeded, however with the more expensive F1 hybrid seed, trends are towards a portion of the crop being established by seedlings, especially at the beginning of the season.

In summer 2 - 3 week old seedlings are ideal but in winter this may have to stretch to 5 - 6 weeks. A good norm to use is to transplant after the development of the first true leaf. Very quick varieties are especially prejudiced by seedlings being too old. The result of old seedlings is a reduction in yield, as plants mature quickly after transplanting. The faster a variety matures, the more the setback if the seedlings are too old when transplanted. It is further critical that seedlings do not become root bound as this seriously influences yield potential, general disease tolerance, maturity, etc.

Hardening off

Hardening off is necessary especially when the seedlings are to be planted out during warm conditions. The seedlings should be kept fairly dry but not allowed to wilt and should be moved to an area with about 15% shade, or in the open for 2 - 5 days. Seedlings must be drenched immediately before planting.

Seedling inspection prior to planting

Check that the terminal bud is not damaged. Terminal bud damage results in a blind plant that should be thrown away. Check for pests and diseases like Pythium, Fusarium and Rhizoctonia.

Transplanting

Seedlings should be wetted prior to planting and should be transplanted into a pre-wetted soil, preferably deep wetted. Transplanting should occur once one can get into the lands without puddling. Roots should be straight and seedlings should be planted up to their cotyledons. A planting stick should be used.

Watering should occur directly after transplanting. This should eliminate air pockets around the roots and facilitate contact with the pre-moistened subsoil. Capillary action will keep the seedling moist and encourage downward root growth. Cutworm bait is essential.

Fruit disorders

Fruit disorders and other physiological problems can cause severe losses during some years. A few of the most common disorders are discussed briefly.

Fruit cracking

All squash fruit have the potential to crack. Some varieties are more susceptible to cracking than others. Thin rind and high sugar content both predispose squash to cracking. Cold air temperatures and warm soil temperatures increase the tendency of cracking. Cracking under these conditions is as a result of the equilibrium of water in the plant being governed by root uptake of water and leaf transpiration of excess water. Warm soil enhances water uptake and cool air retards transpiration. Under these conditions water builds up in the plant. Fruit with a high sugar level have a higher osmotic potential than fruit with lower sugar levels. Since water travels through the plant from a low to a high osmotic potential and fruit usually has a relatively high osmotic potential, the water is forced into the fruit. If the fruit has an even higher osmotic potential than usual, the water will move with an even greater force. The amount of water that gathers in the fruit cells causes them to swell to such an extent that the fruit may crack; this pressure may be as high as 50 bars.

Plant spacing guide: Distance between plants in the row:

Between row spacing	Plant population (plants/ha)	
	5000	6000
1.6 m	125 cm	104 cm
2.00 m	100 cm	80 cm
2.50 m	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 to growth, appearance and yield. Vegetable companies will continue to use tolerance for abiotic stress.

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