



OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- ◆ EXCELLENT QUALITY AND YIELD
- ◆ BUSH TYPE PLANT
- ◆ BRIGHT YELLOW SKIN
- ◆ VERY EARLY MATURING

Medallion is a yellow gem squash that is ideal for use as a baby vegetable. **Medallion** has a bush type plant and the plants are very strong and vigorous. It gives exceptional yields over a long growing period. The fruit is very attractive with a beautiful, bright yellow colour. The firmness of the fruit prevents it from scarring easily. First fruits are harvestable at about 40 - 45 days after transplant. **Medallion** can be used as a replacement for the yellow patty pan, which is well known in the South African market, as it has superior taste and the plants are much stronger, making it less susceptible to diseases. It also presents very well when packed on a punnet together with the more familiar green baby gem.

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- Contact the area representative for more information

CHARACTERISTIC*	MEDALLION
KIND	F1 hybrid squash (<i>Cucurbita pepo L.</i>)
TYPE	Gem squash
MATURITY	45 days as a baby
SEASON	Widely adapted for production after danger of frost has passed
PLANT TYPE	Bush
FRUIT SHAPE	Oval - globe
INTERNAL FRUIT COLOUR	Cream-yellow
EXTERNAL FRUIT COLOUR	Yellow
SHELF LIFE	Very good
UNIFORMITY	Very good
PLANT SPACING GUIDE	120 - 160 cm between rows x 35 - 50 cm in the row
POPULATION GUIDE	15 000 - 18 000 final stand per ha
MARKET / END USE	Fresh market, processing and pre-pack
SPECIAL FEATURES	Very high yield potential and very early maturing

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

 WARNING: VARIETY PROTECTED UNDER **PLANT BREEDERS RIGHTS**. UNAUTHORIZED MULTIPLICATION AND/OR MARKETING OF SEED PROHIBITED.

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 squashes 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.

Flowering, pollination and fruit set

Squashes have separate male and female flowers on the same plant. Bees are the most important pollinators. If bees are not abundant in the field at flowering time, hives should be placed next to the field with at least 2 - 3 hives per hectare. Poor yields often result due to a scarcity of bees. There should be no other flowers in the vicinity that are more attractive to bees like Lucerne, etc. Special precautions should be taken with insecticides during flowering. Only systemic insecticides should be used and should be done in the afternoon or on cool, cloudy days. Bees only visit flowers in the morning. Systemic insecticides sprayed the previous afternoon should be absorbed by the following morning and a minimum number of bees will, therefore, be killed.

Some varieties of squash grown under high temperatures (22°C nights/32°C days) produce female flowers that wither and die before they open. In such situations, male flowers develop normally and open on schedule, but few if any female flowers are seen in the field. In some cases, female flowers may appear but fail to bear fruit because of pollen sterility at high temperatures.

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.

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