



OUTSTANDING QUALITIES


- ◆ VIGOROUS, UNIFORM SEEDLINGS
- ◆ VERY HIGH YIELD POTENTIAL
- ◆ EXCELLENT COLD TOLERANCE
- ◆ EXCELLENT FIELD HOLDING ABILITY

Superslam is a new generation hybrid cabbage from Sakata's extensive breeding programme focusing on the South African market. **Superslam** is suitable for the late summer to early autumn sowing slot, very similar to that of Grandslam. The variety compares well to Grandslam and it is very well adapted to the different climatic zones in South Africa. Seedlings are very vigorous with good uniformity to ensure uniform harvesting. **Superslam** has round heads with a big frame and good head weight, making it perfectly suited to the hawker and the bagging market. This variety has been tested for an extended period in the different climatic zones and can be planted with great confidence.

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- Harvesting should be completed by September to avoid bolting
- Superslam is suited for January and February sowing in the Highveld. In the South Western Cape, excellent yields can be obtained with summer sowings
- December sowings should be restricted to areas where late summer Black rot is unlikely to occur
- Contact area representative for a sowing guide

CHARACTERISTIC	SUPERSLAM
TYPE	F1 hybrid fresh market cabbage (<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>Capitata</i> (L.) Alef. Var. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef.
MATURITY	Medium (around 90 - 110 days from transplanting)
HEAD SIZE	Large
HEAD SHAPE	Round
HEAD WEIGHT	3.5 - 5.5 kg (could be bigger depending on spacing)
HEAD COVER	Very good
EXTERIOR COLOUR	Blue-green
INTERIOR COLOUR	Yellow light green
FLAVOUR	Very good, sweet taste
PLANT SIZE	Large
PLANT HABIT	Semi-erect
BOLTING REACTION	Sensitive to bolting if produced through winter for spring harvest
DISEASE REACTION (SCIENTIFIC)	Intermediate resistance: <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>conglutinans</i> (Foc)
FIELD HOLDING	Excellent
YIELD POTENTIAL	Excellent
SUGGESTED POPULATION	28 000 - 35 000 plants per ha
USE	Sold as individual heads and per bag
SPECIAL FEATURES	Excellent cold tolerance and yield potential

* 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 CABBAGE PRODUCTION

Seedling production

Seedlings (not older than 4 to 6 weeks for summer and 6 to 8 weeks for winter) should be grown in a medium that is aerated, has a good water holding capacity and have a pH of about 6.5. Peat, bark and vermiculite mixes are generally used. Typical problems encountered in media include excessive tannins, low air-filled porosity resulting in poor drainage and green mould build-up. The medium should be pre-enriched and seedlings should be fertilized. Germination occurs best when the seedling trays are in a germination chamber running at 20°C and with high humidity. At the first sign of germination, the seedlings should be moved out into the tunnel. Seedlings should ideally be grown at a temperature of 20°C.

Plant spacing

Spacing and plant populations are extremely important as they affect the final product, especially size in cabbage. Wider spacing may be necessary under specific environmental conditions and will assist in producing a final product that is of good quality. Wider spacing is required as the climate becomes hotter and more humid to prevent the increased chance of disease and moisture build-up. This is also the case where there is a possibility of drought and should be practiced on heavy soils.

Table showing suggested plant populations of cabbage:

Type	Size	Plant population (plants/ha)
Cabbage	Large	28 000 – 35 000
	Medium	55 000 – 65 000
	Small (Baby)	80 000 – 100 000

Fertilisation

Most brassica crops are classified as heavy feeders since they have a high nutritional requirement. The main yield-limiting factors in most areas of South Africa include soil acidity, low soil phosphorous, low soil nitrogen and potassium levels as well as low or unavailable molybdenum. A good nutritional programme is essential to maintain high nutrient levels in the soil with annual applications based on a reliable soil test. Soil tests should be conducted for each field prior to planting to record the status of the soil and to be able to correct any nutrient imbalances and problems prior to planting. Applying small amounts of fertiliser through the life of the crop is more beneficial, cost-effective and results in good quality produce.

Cracking of cabbage

Symptoms

- The cabbage head cracks open
- Often seen as bursting or spitting of the head surface

Causes

- The natural effect that occurs in cabbage once the cabbage has hardened but continues to expand
- Hot temperatures, excess water, excessive amounts of available nitrogen, high humidity and warm soils all favour bursting.
- Early varieties are more inclined to burst than late varieties
- Some varieties are more susceptible to bursting than others

Control

- Plant varieties that are resistant to bursting, especially during summer production
- Grandslam, Superslam, Conquistador and Optima all have good resistance to bursting/cracking

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 with 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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