



OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- ◆ DEEP RED COLOUR
- ◆ REFINED CROWN AND TAPROOT
- ◆ WARM SEASON SOWING

Crimson Globe is a reliable, high yielding variety suited for warm season production. Roots are uniform, round to flat-round shaped with a slender, attractive taproot. **Crimson Globe** has light zoning during the warm summer season. Tops are medium in size and a medium green colour with a refined crown. **Crimson Globe** has very good heat tolerance. **Crimson Globe** is suited for the fresh market, processing and pre-packing. **Crimson Globe** has intermediate resistance to Leaf spot (Cb) and Downy mildew (Pfb).

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- Warm season production
- Contact area representative for a sowing guide

CHARACTERISTIC*	CRIMSON GLOBE
KIND	Round red beetroot (<i>Beta vulgaris</i> L. subsp. <i>vulgaris</i> var. <i>conditiva</i> Alef.)
MATURITY	60 – 70 days for warm season production Note: maturity depends on sowing date, production location and seasonal variations.
SEASON	Warm an
ROOT SHAPE	Round to flat-round
CROWN SIZE	Medium
SMOOTHNESS	Smooth
INTERNAL COLOUR	Deep red
ZONING	Light
SUGAR CONTENT	Medium
TOP HEIGHT	35 – 40 cm
LEAF HABIT	Semi-erect
LEAF COLOUR AND GLOSS	Medium green / matte
PURPLE IN LEAF (BETALIN PIGMENT)	Moderate
BOLTING HABIT	Slow to bolt when sown in spring and summer
DISEASE REACTION (SCIENTIFIC)	Intermediate resistance: <i>Cercospora beticola</i> (Cb) and <i>Peronospora farinosa</i> f.sp. <i>betae</i> (Pfb)
PLANT POPULATION	450 000 - 550 000 plants per ha for normal roots
UNIFORMITY	Good
MARKET USE	Fresh market, home garden and bunching in warm season
SPECIAL FEATURES	High yield, widely adapted, refined shape and smoothness

* 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).

* **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 BEET PRODUCTION

Climatic requirements

Beet is produced from hot tropical areas to cold temperate climates. Beet grows best at mean temperatures between 15.5 and 18.5°C. Germination can occur at temperatures between 4.5 and 24.5°C, maximum 30°C. Beet is not generally severely affected by winter colds and light frost, although, cultivars differ in their susceptibility to cold. Frost before harvesting will, however, damage leaves and retard growth. Maturity can be significantly delayed by cold weather and tops tend to be significantly reduced in size. Where the climate is moderate, beet can be cultivated throughout the year.

During hot, bright, sunny days, young plants can be badly injured or killed by the high temperatures that develop at or just below the soil surface. Prolonged hot weather later in the development of the plants may not only retard growth and depress yield but also may cause undesirable strong flavour, white concentric rings within the root and coarseness in the roots in some cultivars. However, Sakata varieties like Merlin and Globe Dark Red have been bred to resist the development of white rings during warm temperatures better than beet varieties better suited for cool season production.

Soil requirements and tillage

Beet grows well in a variety of soils, growing best in a deep, friable, well-drained soil abundant with organic matter. It may grow on heavier (clay) soils, but harvesting is more difficult and root growth may be impaired. Optimum pH is 6.0 – 6.8, but neutral and alkaline soils are tolerated in some areas. Some salinity may be tolerated after the seedling stage. Beet is notable for its tolerance to manganese toxicity.

Beet grows well on sandy loam, silt loam, or muck soil. Such soils are among the easiest to work and permit good development of the roots. In irrigated districts where moisture can be accurately controlled, silt loams and even clay loams produce high quality yields. These heavy soils are not recommended where soil moisture is not subject to precise control. Growing beet on heavy soil is more difficult than on light ones, even when soil moisture is controlled. Beet has a large root system that extends to about 1 m or more unless root growth is impaired.

Cloddy, stony, trashy or very shallow soils are undesirable. Uniform soil moisture is essential for best quality. Rotate crops to avoid Damping-off and root rot diseases. Beet is sensitive to Damping-off on soil that may flood or otherwise have poor aeration.

Raised beds can increase the effective depth of loose soils. This allows the soil to drain better, concentrate topsoil around the root zone, provide more oxygen for healthy root development and warm earlier in spring. There is better aeration and often reduced disease infection and the incidence of Damping-off are also reduced. It is of most benefit on heavy and poorly drained soils. Harvesting is also made easier with raised beds for the blade system.

Irrigation

Irrigate carefully, especially early in the season so as to avoid overwatering. Waterlogging can cause beet leaves to turn red and cause plants to stop growing for a while. Soil type does not affect the amount of total water needed but does affect the frequency of water application. Moisture management is especially important during stand establishment, the early growth stage and root expansion. Since seedlings are unable to emerge when surface crusting occurs, irrigation during the pre-emergence period should strive to maintain a loose soil surface. This often requires frequent, light irrigations. During the last half of the growing period, irrigate only early in the day to allow for rapid canopy drying.

Yield expectations

Yield per ha varies significantly from season to season and year to year. One may expect on open pollinated Detroit strains to yield from 30 - 40 tons per hectare with a good yield being 50 tons per hectare. Hybrid varieties at the correct plant populations and optimal fertiliser programmes may well yield in excess of 55 tons per hectare.

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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