



## OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- ◆ RESISTANCE TO TOMATO SPOTTED WILT AND TWO NEMATODE SPECIES
- ◆ VERY HIGH YIELD POTENTIAL
- ◆ OUTSTANDING FRUIT QUALITY
- ◆ EXCELLENT SHELF LIFE


**Mion** is a determinate saladette with the same characteristic plant structure, fruit set ability, yield potential and fruit quality as the well-known Mariana. **Mion** offers resistance to Tomato spotted wilt, making it particularly suited to areas where TSWV is a problem. Fruit are predominately large (120 – 140 g), with a very uniform shape, thick fruit walls, very good firmness and excellent shelf life. Fruit colour up uniformly and has good external and internal colour. **Mion** has high resistance to Verticillium wilt race 1 (Vd: 1) and Fusarium wilt races 1 and 2 (Fol: 1 - 2) and intermediate resistance to Root-knot (Mi, Mj), Tomato spotted wilt (TSWV), Alternaria stem canker (Aal) and Gray leaf spot (Ss). **Mion's** yield potential, fruit quality and shelf life make the variety ideal for both the fresh market and processing.

## SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- The nutrient requirement is similar to that of Mariana. Apply 60 % nitrogen before week 6 to build a strong plant that will be able to sustain high yield
- Contact area representative for more information

CHARACTERISTIC*	MION
KIND	F1 hybrid saladette tomato ( <i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> L.)
TYPE	Determinate saladette
FIRMNESS	Very good
MATURITY	Medium late
SEASON	Year-round culture in frost-free areas
FRUIT WEIGHT	120 - 140 g
FRUIT SHAPE	Blocky
ATTACHMENT POINT	Small, neat
FRUIT COLOUR	Excellent internal and external colour, uniform colour up
UNIFORMITY	Very good
LEAF COVER	Very good
DISEASE REACTION (SCIENTIFIC)	<b>High resistance:</b> <i>Verticillium dahlia</i> race 1 (Vd: 1), <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> races 1 and 2 (Fol: 1 - 2) <b>Intermediate resistance:</b> <i>Meloidogyne incognita</i> (Mi)✦ and <i>Meloidogyne javanica</i> (Mj)✦, <i>Alternaria alternata</i> f. sp. <i>lycopersici</i> (Aal) and <i>Stemphylium solani</i> (Ss), <i>Tomato spotted wilt virus</i> (TSWV) ◆ Nematode resistance can break down when soil temperatures are above 32°C
MARKETS / END USE	Processing and fresh market
POPULATION GUIDE	15 000 - 20 000 final stand per ha
SPECIAL FEATURES	Plant habit and nutrient requirement similar to that of Mariana Particularly suited for areas where TSWV is a problem
KIND	F1 hybrid saladette tomato ( <i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> L.)
TYPE	Determinate saladette
FIRMNESS	Very good
MATURITY	Medium late
POPULATION GUIDE	10 000 - 16 000 final stand per ha (45 - 50 cm in row, 160 cm between rows)
SPECIAL FEATURES	Very good size at the end of season

\* 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.

**Recent version:** Kindly contact Sakata or Area Representative for the most recent version of this Technical Bulletin.



## GENERAL TIPS FOR TOMATO PRODUCTION

### Climatic requirements

**Mion** is well suited to production in all areas, due to its adaptability. **Mion** set fruit about 7 - 10 days later than other varieties, enabling it to build a proper structure for a very good set of fruit.

### Cultural methods

Trellising of **Mion** 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 **Mion** would be between 15 000 and 20 000 plants per hectare depending of the time of transplanting.

### Soil analysis

The ideal soil analysis for growing tomatoes would compare to:

pH(H <sub>2</sub> O)	5,6
Phosphate	60 mg kg <sup>-1</sup> (Bray 1)
Potassium	100-250 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>
Calcium	300-2 000 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>
Magnesium	120-300 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>
Sodium	10-50 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>

### Harvesting

**Mion** sets a lot of fruit at the beginning and keeps on setting longer than normal saladette tomatoes. As the first fruit starts ripening the plant is still flowering and thus has the ability to set and produce more fruit once the first fruit has been harvested. Care should be taken not to damage the plant during the harvesting process. Damage to the plant will result in lower yields and poorer quality fruit due to disease and the loss of leaf cover. The better handling of the fruit during harvest will also have a better end product to the consumer.

### Marketing

The superior quality fruit of **Mion** makes this a must for fresh market saladette production.

The fruit has excellent firmness, taste, shelf life and produces large attractive fruit. The variety is also suited for production as a processing variety with the qualities needed for that, depending on the process that is used for processing.

### Fertilisation

The high vigour of **Mion**, requires a specific fertiliser program and it is suggested that more nitrogen are applied in the beginning, 60 % of the total amount to be applied within the first 6 weeks after transplant. This will enable the plant to build a proper structure for the high fruit load and delay flowering very early on. Any adjustments to the standard fertiliser program should be made *only after consulting a qualified agronomist which is familiar with the management of Mion*. For summer it would be suggested to apply 300 kg N, 100 kg P, and 400 kg K and for winter 200 kg N, 75 kg P and 300 kg K.

In the nursery the seedling should not be over fertilised, this will result in a soft seedling and will not produce good results when it is transplanted in the field.

### 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 (120 hours) and the final germination count are provided for all 6 test temperatures. 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.

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