



## OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- ◆ VERY SLOW TO BOLT
- ◆ VERY GOOD HOLDING ABILITY
- ◆ EXCELLENT UNIFORMITY AND YIELD POTENTIAL
- ◆ SUITABLE FOR 'BABY' AND MEDIUM SIZE CABBAGE

**Red Rookie** is an early maturing hybrid, maturing at around 80 - 90 days after transplant for large heads. Plants are very strong, vigorous and uniform in comparison to other red cabbages. Heads are almost perfectly round and very attractive with a deep purple-red exterior colour and very prominent purple interior colour. Heads are very firm and compact with a short core and thick leaves. Head quality is excellent and **Red Rookie** is well adapted for transporting over long distances. Holding ability on the land, resistance to cracking and very little head deformation makes **Red Rookie** a standard among red cabbage growers. Performance of **Red Rookie** is excellent due to its reliability, versatility and excellent adaptability to various climatic conditions.

## SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Red Rookie** is generally used as a large-headed fresh market cabbage but can be used successfully as a 'baby' cabbage under higher plant populations
- **Red Rookie** is suited to sowing throughout the year in warm areas and most of the year except during April and May in cool areas
- Contact area representative for a sowing guide

CHARACTERISTIC	RED ROOKIE
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 (large heads: around 80 – 90 days from transplanting, 'baby': 50 – 60 days from transplanting)
HEAD SIZE	Medium to large, depending on planting density
HEAD SHAPE	Round
HEAD WEIGHT	0.8 - 3.5 kg (could be bigger depending on spacing)
HEAD COVER	Very good
EXTERIOR COLOUR	Deep purple-red
INTERIOR COLOUR	Purple, red and white
FLAVOUR	Very good
PLANT SIZE	Medium-large
PLANT HABIT	Semi-erect
DISEASE REACTION (SCIENTIFIC)	-
BOLTING REACTION	Very slow to bolt
FIELD HOLDING	Excellent
YIELD POTENTIAL	Very good
SUGGESTED POPULATION	35 000 plants per ha (large head) - 80 000+ plants per ha (small/baby head)
USE	Loose heads, pre-packing and novelty
SPECIAL FEATURES	Excellent shelf life and widely adapted

\* 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 CABBAGE PRODUCTION

### Cracking of cabbage

#### Symptoms

- The cabbage head cracks open
- Often seen as bursting or splitting 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, excess amount 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 which are resistant to bursting, especially during summer production
- Grandslam, Superslam, Conquistador and Optima all have good resistance to bursting

### 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 aid in producing a quality final product. Wider spacing is required as the climate becomes hotter and more humid to prevent the increased chance of disease. This is also the case where there is a possibility of drought and should be practised on heavy soils.

Table showing suggested plant populations of Cabbage crops:

Type	Size	Plant population (plants/ha)
Cabbage	Large	25000 – 35 000
	Medium	45000 – 65 000
	Small (Baby)	80 000 – 100 000

### Soil requirements

Cabbage grows best in well-drained, fertile loam soils, but can also be successfully cultivated on a wide range of other soil profiles, provided that drainage is good and that the soil is fertile. Cabbage has a fairly shallow root system with an effective feeding depth of about 600 mm. Application of organic matter such as kraal manure, compost, and plant residues from previous unrelated crops or green manure improves soil qualities and in turn, has a positive effect on plant growth. To help avoid soil-borne disease problems, select fields where no brassica crops have been planted for at least three years.

Cabbage is considered to be sensitive to an acidic soil pH and therefore soil pH should be well monitored. Soils that have a low pH often contain very high levels of available aluminium and manganese, which adversely affect growth and yield. Molybdenum deficiencies may also be induced in very acidic conditions, especially on heavier soils. Soil pH (KCl) should be raised to over 5.5 by the application of agricultural lime at least 4 to 6 weeks prior to planting.

### Novelty cabbage marketing

The novelty cabbage market is fairly small but may increase in the future. Savoy, red and spitz cabbage all form part of this novelty market. Unfortunately, such varieties have not been well marketed and are often too foreign for the local consumer. As more emphasis is placed on these unique types it is expected that more middle and higher-income consumers will begin to show interest in such a commodity. These novelty types are often sold as 'baby' cabbages and are packaged in much the same way.

### 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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