

**OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**

- ◆ GOOD YIELD POTENTIAL
- ◆ GOOD SHELF LIFE AND INTERIOR QUALITY
- ◆ MEDIUM MATURING

Chicago Warded is a medium maturing Hubbard squash. Plants are vigorous with indeterminate vines. The yield potential is good. The fruit averages between 6 and 7 kg in weight and has the typical Hubbard shape. The rind is dark green-grey in colour and densely covered by warts. **Chicago Warded's** flesh is dark yellow in colour, dry and thick. Taste is very sweet and nutty. Holding ability and shelf life is good.

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- Contact the area representative for more information

CHARACTERISTIC*	CHICAGO WARTED
KIND	Open pollinated squash (<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duchesne)
TYPE	Hubbard squash
MATURITY	Medium (90 - 110 days after sowing)
SEASON	Widely adapted for production after danger of frost has passed
PLANT TYPE	Vine
FRUIT SHAPE	Medium, fat, bulky Hubbard-shape
FRUIT SIZE	Large to very large: 6 - 7 kg
FRUIT SURFACE	Densely warted
FRUIT FLESH	Thick and firm
INTERNAL FRUIT COLOUR	Deep yellow
EXTERNAL FRUIT COLOUR	Dark grey-green
SEED CAVITY	Large
STORAGE	Good
UNIFORMITY	Average
PLANT SPACING GUIDE	2 m between rows x 1 m in the row
POPULATION GUIDE	Dry land: 3 500 final stand per ha Under irrigation: 5 000 - 6 000 final stand per ha
AVERAGE SEED COUNT	3 100 - 4 300 seeds per kg
SEED REQUIREMENT	2 - 3 kg per ha
MARKETS / END USE	Fresh market and home garden
SPECIAL FEATURES	Ideal for home gardens

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

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

Climatic requirements

Soil temperatures

Squashes are warm season crops and perform best when soil and air temperatures are above 15°C. Above 15°C, seedlings should emerge within seven days. Seed germinates poorly below 13°C and requires two to three weeks to emerge. No germination takes place at temperatures below 10°C. Seed may decay before germination if planted in cold, wet soils.

The optimum soil temperature for root development is 20°C. Black plastic on raised beds will speed soil warming and can dramatically increase early and total yields. Seed or transplants can be planted through the plastic by hand or with machinery designed for direct seeding through plastic.

Air temperature

Vegetative growth, flowering and fruit-set are greatly affected by temperature. Cucurbits are sensitive to frost and are injured at temperatures below 0°C. Almost no growth takes place at temperatures below 15°C, but rapid growth takes place at temperatures between 18 and 27°C. Plants generally grow more luxuriantly at higher temperatures.

Relatively low temperatures and short daylight periods promote the formation of more female flowers in relation to male flowers. As temperature and daylight period increase, the process is reversed. At extremely high temperatures only male flowers may be formed. Temperatures have an important effect on the dehiscence of the pollen sac. This applies especially to the minimum temperature, as pollen will still be released above the optimum temperature but not below the minimum temperature.

The length of the growing season is determined by temperature. This fact must be kept in mind when plantings are planned. Early plantings are subjected to relatively low temperatures at the beginning of the growth period, while late plantings, on the other hand, are subjected to relatively low night temperatures at the end of the growth period. Under these conditions, the period of the crop on the land is extended. The length of the growing season for squash from planting to harvesting can be between 85 and 120 days, depending on the variety and growth conditions.

Humidity

Squash prefer long periods of warm dry weather. Areas with high humidity during the growing season can be troubled with fungal diseases especially if the moist period occurs at the end of the growing season.

Pumpkins, cucumbers and squashes are less sensitive to these diseases than watermelons and muskmelons. In these areas, production is dependent on a highly efficient spraying programme. A long rainy period just before or during harvesting can cause the fruit to rot, especially on the heavier types of soil.

Plantings must be planned in such a way that flowering does not occur during periods when cool, cloudy or moist weather is expected. Bees do not work under such conditions with the result that pollination and fruit-set will be poor.

Plant spacing guide: Distance between plants in the row

Between row spacing	Plant population/ha		
	3 500	5 000	6 000
2.0 m	125 cm	100 cm	80 cm
2.5 m	115 cm	80 cm	65 cm

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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