



OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- ◆ EXCELLENT INTERNAL QUALITY
- ◆ EXCELLENT BRIX AND FLAVOUR
- ◆ AVERAGE FRUIT WEIGHT OF 3 – 5 KG
- ◆ VERY HIGH YIELD POTENTIAL

Don Quixote is a Piel de Sapo type melon. It is adapted to a wide range of growing conditions. It is very productive, with attractive fruit and excellent internal quality with tolerance to glassiness and excellent storage ability. **Don Quixote** has a very high sugar content and unbeatable flavour with Brix levels of up to 18 %. It gives a very large fruit of 3 - 5 kg. **Don Quixote** has high resistance to Melon necrotic spot virus (MNSV) and Fusarium wilt races 0 - 2 (Fom: 0 - 2) and intermediate resistance to Powdery mildew [(Gc: 1) (ex Ec) & (Px: 1, 2, 5) (ex Sf)].

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- Plant population of 6 000 - 8 000 plants per ha
- Contact area representative for indicators for the correct time to harvest

CHARACTERISTIC*	DON QUIXOTE
KIND	F1 hybrid sweet melon (<i>Cucumis melo</i> L.)
TYPE	Piel de Sapo
MATURITY	90 days
GROWTH HABIT	Vining
PLANT VIGOUR	Very good
SEASON	Cool to warm season and warm to cool
FRUIT SIZE	Weight: 3 to 5 kg
FRUIT SHAPE	Oval
FRUIT SEED CAVITY	Small
FLESH COLOUR	White
SUGAR CONTENT	High, 16 - 18 % Brix
FLAVOUR	Excellent: sweet with good flavour
RIND COLOUR	Green with light netting
UNIFORMITY	Excellent
LEAF COVER	Very good
DISEASE REACTION (SCIENTIFIC)	High resistance: <i>Melon necrotic spot virus</i> (MNSV) and <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>melonis</i> races 0 – 2 (Fom: 0 – 2) Intermediate resistance: <i>Golovinomyces cichoracearum</i> (ex <i>Erysiphe cichoracearum</i>) race 1 (Gc: 1) (ex Ec) and <i>Podosphaera xanthii</i> (ex <i>Sphaerotheca fuliginea</i>) races 1,2 and 5 (Px: 1,2,5) (ex Sf)
POPULATION GUIDE	6 000 – 8 000 final stand per ha
MARKET / END USE	Fresh market, processing
SPECIAL FEATURES	Large fruit with excellent internal quality and taste

* 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 SWEET MELON PRODUCTION

Climatic requirements

Melons are warm-season plants and grow best at temperatures between 21 and 32°C. The optimum growth temperatures at night are 18 - 20°C and during the day 24 - 30°C. Optimum temperatures for fruit ripening are between 15 - 25°C. The optimal soil temperatures are between 21 - 25°C.

Temperatures below 0°C can kill the plants, and below 12°C growth virtually stops. If the average daily temperatures fall below 18°C, melons will effectively cease growth. Temperatures above 40°C will suppress the total number of flowers. Seed will germinate and emerge within 4 - 6 days at a soil temperature of 25°C and within 6 - 12 days at 20°C. Melon seed does not germinate well at soil temperatures below 16°C.

Water requirements

Irrigation has a pronounced effect on both yield and quality of melons. Beds must be watered to a depth of 1 m before planting. Depending on the soil type and season, 18 - 25 mm water must be applied weekly after emergence. Avoid regular light irrigations. The best time to irrigate is during crop development. Limit irrigation when the melons approach ripening time. Excessive moisture at ripening will cause internal decay, lower sugar content and fruit bursting.

Nutrition

The rate of uptake of nutrients varies with growth stages namely germination, early runner, first flower, fruit expansion, and fruit ripening. Post-plant fertilizer applications need to be split in order to supply to the varying demands by the plants through the different growth stages. It is necessary that fertilizers are applied continuously through the development of the crop in the irrigation water.

The availability of Ca and Mg during the fruit expansion phase is crucial. These nutrients must be applied in irrigation water even if the soil analyses indicate that it is present in adequate amounts. Weekly foliar sprays of Ca and Mg from fruit set to harvest may ensure the best fruit quality.

Bees and pollination

Melon plants have separate male and female flowers on the same plant. Female flowers are only open for one day and need to be visited by bees several times to enable fruit set. Bees are the main pollinators and must, therefore, be placed as close as possible to the field. Poor pollination results in reduced yields and an increased percentage of misshapen fruits. Check blooming fields late morning on sunny, warm days – if there is minimal bee activity, it is recommended to provide beehives. Two to three hives are recommended per hectare. If an insecticide application is required on the melon crop or nearby fields, do it late in the afternoon when the bee activity has ceased. Place beehives upwind from the field in order to limit the possibility of insecticide drift. Apply insecticides carefully during flowering.

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.

Tolerance (T):

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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