

MONTERO

F1 Hybrid Hot Pepper

Experimental

OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- ◆ SERRANO TYPE
- ◆ HIGH YIELD POTENTIAL
- ◆ HIGH PUNGENCY IN MATURE GREEN STAGE
- ◆ UNIFORM, ATTRACTIVE FRUIT

Montero is a medium maturing pepper hybrid falling in the serrano-class. Plants tolerate high temperatures. The medium tall plants are strong and have the potential to produce very high yields bearing over a prolonged time. **Montero** has a smooth, thick-walled pendant fruit. Fruits are light green in the immature green stage and turn to a very attractive, deep red colour when mature ripe. Fruit can be marketed fresh.



SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- Contact your area representative for more information

CHARACTERISTIC*	MONTERO
KIND	F1 hybrid hot pepper (<i>Capsicum L.</i>)
TYPE	Serrano type
MATURITY	Medium (90 - 95 days from transplant)
FRUIT DIMENSIONS	8 - 10 x 1.5 – 2 cm
FRUIT SHAPE	Bullet
FRUIT WALL	Thick
SMOOTHNESS	Very smooth
FRUIT COLOUR	Green turning to deep red
FLAVOUR	Hot, with good flavour also in the mature green stage
PLANT TYPE	Medium tall bush
DISEASE REACTION (SCIENTIFIC)	-
BEARING HABIT	Pendent
PRODUCTION	Open field
POPULATION GUIDE	18 000 – 33 000 plants per ha
USE	Pre-pack, bulk packaging, pickle.
SPECIAL FEATURES	Excellent fruit quality. Prolonged harvest. Strong tolerance to high temperatures

* 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.

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

GENERAL TIPS FOR HOT PEPPER PRODUCTION

Soil requirements

Like most other plants, hot peppers can be grown successfully on a wide range of soils but they prefer sandy loam and loam soils. Plants are sensitive to acid soils and do best where the pH is between 5.5 and 7.0.

A sound water regime is important, with the accent on good drainage and water retention capacity. The latter is particularly important in limiting temporary water shortages and wilting of the plants to the minimum.

Planting time

Hot pepper is a warm season crop that is sensitive to temperature extremes. They grow best when temperatures are between 21 °C and 25 °C. When night temperature drop below 15 °C or day temperatures exceed 30 °C, poor fruit set and blossom drop often result. Given these limitations, peppers can be grown throughout the year in areas of the low and middle veldt where temperatures below 0 °C do not occur and in the Highveld during the warmer months of the year.

Crop rotation

Pepper crops should be rotated so that peppers are not planted in the same soil more than once in 3 years. Other related crops that should not be grown for 3 years before peppers, include potato, tomato, eggplant, groundnut, tobacco and cowpea.

Transplanting

As with all plants, pepper seedlings should be handled with care when been transplanted. The seedbed or growing medium should be loosened so that the seedlings can be lifted carefully with as many roots and as much soil as possible. Weak, badly formed or diseased seedlings should be discarded, leaving only the best for transplanting. Should a flower form at the tip of the plant, as is the case with some cultivars, it should be removed, but no other pruning or removing of leaves should be done. Such practices encourage the spread of virus diseases, to which peppers are very susceptible.

Transplanting is done preferably on cool days or in the late afternoon. Wet the plant rows the day before transplanting. The transplant should be placed in a suitable hole and the soil firmly pressed down around it. The plant should not be pressed into the mud with the finger. Watering should occur immediately after transplant into the compressing hole or to the side of the seedling (about 1 ℓ per seedling). This should eliminate air pockets around the roots and cause contact with the pre-moistened subsoil. Capillary

action will keep the seedling moist and encourage the roots down. Cutworm bait is essential.

Disease reaction definitions:

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.

Blossom end rot (BER)

Causes

- Genetic varieties differ in their tolerance to this disorder
- BER is usually associated with a localized calcium deficiency in the blossom end of young fruit
- High relative humidity, limits transpiration and therefore Ca uptake
- Low humidity may cause BER as water, with dissolved nutrients flow to leaves and not to fruit
- High salinity increases BER.

Control

- Remove affected fruit as soon as symptoms are visible
- Choose varieties which are less sensitive to BER
- Reduce stress (temperature, light intensity, salinity, etc.) where practical
- Calcium based foliar spray may help to reduce BER after periods of humid, cloudy weather
- Well balanced nutrient solution.

Flower and fruit drop

Flower and fruit drop caused by high temperature (> 30 °C), low light intensity, especially when temperature is high, number of fruit already on the plant, poor leaf canopy and virus infection, especially Cucumber mosaic virus.

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