

NELSON

F1 Hybrid Grey Pumpkin



OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- **SEMI-BUSH TYPE**
- **STRONG, VIGOROUS GROWER**
- **THICK FLESHED WITH A SMALL SEED CAVITY**
- **FIRM FLESH WITH VERY GOOD COLOUR**

Nelson is a very early maturing semi-bush type, grey-skinned pumpkin hybrid with very good internal quality. The plants are vigorous and each plant can be expected to produce about 1.7 fruits per plant. The fruit shape is similar to Crown Prince and the flesh is thick, deep orange in colour and very firm. The fruit are medium sized (3 – 5 kg) and are slightly ribbed. Typical of bush-pumpkins, **Nelson** is intended for marketing early in the season.



SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- We suggest a plant population of 6 000 plants per ha as fruit size decreases at higher plant populations
- The best results so far, have been obtained in summer plantings
- **Nelson** may be stored for short periods under controlled conditions

CHARACTERISTIC*	NELSON
KIND	F1 hybrid pumpkin (<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duchesne.)
TYPE	Grey skinned pumpkin
MATURITY	Very early (± 80 - 90 days in mid summer and 90 - 100 days in cool seasons from direct sowing)
SEASON	Widely adapted for production after danger of frost has past
PLANT TYPE	Vigorous semi-bush
FRUIT SHAPE	Medium deep
FRUIT SIZE	Medium, 3 - 5 kg
FRUIT RIBBING	Slight
FRUIT FLESH	Thick and even, firm texture
FRUIT COLOUR	Flesh: deep orange; rind: light grey
SEED CAVITY	Small
STORAGE ABILITY	Good
UNIFORMITY	Good
PLANT SPACING GUIDE	1.5 m between rows, for in row spacing see page 2
POPULATION GUIDE	6 000 final stand per ha
DISEASE REACTION	
MARKETS / END USE	Fresh market, pre-packing and processing
SPECIAL FEATURE	Semi-bush type plant, very good internal quality

* 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.

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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).

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GENERAL TIPS FOR PUMPKIN PRODUCTION

Soil Requirements

Pumpkins produce best on well-drained, fertile soil. The plants produce large, shallow root systems very rapidly in the top 20 - 25 cm of soil, which should be prepared into a firm, well-fertilised seedbed. Squash and pumpkins do well in soils where 25 - 30 tons of well-rotted manure has been applied per ha. To help avoid soil borne disease problems, select fields that have not had other vine crops, tomatoes or peppers for at least three years.

As far as soil acidity is concerned, cucurbits are moderately sensitive to acidic soils. Good results can be expected over a range of pH values extending from 5.5 - 7.5 (H₂O). If the soil pH is lower than 5.5, dolomitic lime should be applied in accordance with the analytic findings. Lime should be ploughed in four weeks or more before the planting season.

Examination of the soil

The ideal soil depth for cucurbits, particularly pumpkins, is 900 mm and deeper. These crops should not be cultivated on soils less than 450 mm deep. The highest concentration of roots is found in the top 300 mm of soil. Tillage banks and impenetrable layers occurring at less than 450 mm should be broken with a sub-soiler.

The fertiliser and lime requirements are determined by a laboratory analysis of a representative soil sample. In view of the fact that lime should be applied at least 4 - 8 weeks before planting the soil sample should be submitted for analysis as early as possible. Disregard of the lime requirement can be the cause of a severe reduction in yield.

Clean cultivation

The field should be clean cultivated for 6 - 8 weeks before planting. This practice controls cutworms by the removal of host plants from the field and also facilitates weed control. Organic material usually decomposes during this period, therefore preventing a nitrogen negative period after planting.

Crop rotation

The main purpose of a rotational system is to combat soil-borne diseases and pests associated with specific crops. Systems are often designed to include a green-manure crop in order to increase the organic content of a soil.

Cucurbits may follow any unrelated vegetable in a rotational system. The potato is an exception as there is some evidence that certain *Fusarium* species attack both cucurbits and potatoes. Grasses or grain crops, such as oats in the Western Cape and babala in the hot areas of the Limpopo Province, are the most suitable green-manure crops. Nematodes or any of the diseases associated with vegetable crops do not generally attack them. These crops should be ploughed in while they are still green and at least 8 weeks before planting.

Protection against sunburn

Varieties with dark skinned fruit are highly susceptible to sunburn. The most effective protection is obtained when the fruit is totally covered by foliage, which is brought about by the application of sound production practices. Branches, straw, chaff, etc. can also be used to cover fruit but this practice labour intensive and not very effective in windy areas.

Prevention of disease

Diseases can be prevented to a large extent by the following:

- Rotational cropping
- Use of disease-free seed
- Good drainage
- Regular inspections and an effective spray programme
- Planting time
- Planting against wind direction

Prevention against wind damage

Developing pumpkin and squash fruit have thin, sensitive skins which damage and mark easily. These permanent marks negatively affect the price of the final product, e.g. Crown Prince for export, Gemini for baby gems, etc. Many producers are therefore growing windbreaks to reduce wind damage.

Plant spacing guide: Distance between plants in the row:

Between row spacing	Plant population		
	6 000	7 000	8 000
1.50 m	110 cm	95 cm	82 cm

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