

ONION | NEWS 01



ONION | NEWS nr 01 - February 2014

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BARITO

Martin Carlsson-Levin | Barito

Early onions for Almhaga

Martin Carlsson-Levin is field manager for Almhaga, a vegetable growing company in the South of Sweden. Almhaga has grown rapidly over the last 15 years: the company went from 10 hectare in 1998 to 250 hectare in 2013. Today Martin is growing the successful Seminis variety Barito on 45 hectares.

Martin: 'I was not working for Almhaga when we decided to grow Barito in 1998, but the reasons for doing so are still evident: Barito is the earliest onion in the market. We grow other varieties as well, but Barito is always first. We sow at the end of March or the beginning of April and we harvest in August or September.'

Uniformity

Martin is very pleased with the uniformity of Barito: 'Barito has a nice, thin neck, that goes down quickly. Within three to four days, the entire foliage will have fallen over and we can start harvesting. This is a great benefit of this variety.'

**Seminis**
grow forward

'We do not grow Barito for storage, so we are happy with the speed at which we can go to market. It takes Barito five days to dry in the field and then a few days in the dry room. We will then pack and sell the onions. In the middle of November, Barito has left our company.'

Less clay

Martin prefers to grow Barito on "early soil" as he calls it: soil with less clay. 'An early variety such as Barito needs more water and is less suitable for heavy rains and wet seasons. So soil with a limited amount of clay is the best for Barito. We irrigate Barito each year, which is quite easy on our land. In our area it is easy to drill for water.'

Pretty in yellow

Appearances count, even for onions. Martin: 'Barito looks really nice; it is a beautiful onion. And I am particularly fond of the nice thin neck.'

Excellent yield in 2013

As for the yield, Martin is also pleased. 'For an early onion – two to three



weeks earlier than other yellow varieties – Barito has an acceptable yield. We have harvested approximately 64 ton per hectare. So we did really well this season!'



Laura Pierce | RS07751481 and SV3557ND

Complete range of new introductions



SV3557ND

RS07751481



SV3557ND

RS07751481



The Technical Development department – TD in short – plays a major role within Seminis, particularly in the launch of new varieties. Laura Pierce is responsible for Seminis assortment of onions in the United Kingdom and Nordics. Laura is particularly enthusiastic about two new introductions of onion varieties: RS07751481 and SV3557ND.

Laura says: 'With these varieties, our portfolio is complemented by two early/ mid early varieties, so that we can offer our customers a complete range from early to late.'

SV3557ND: earliness with long storage ability

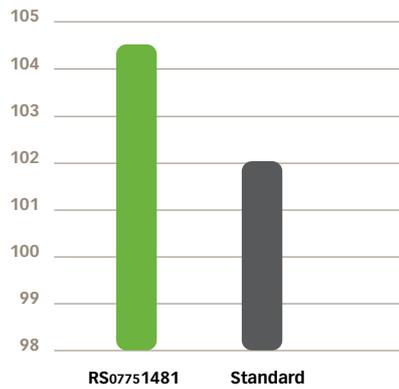
Laura: 'SV3557ND is an exciting new Seminis variety in its final year of trials in the UK and Nordics. Due to a strong breeding effort, we've been able to combine earliness with long storage ability. SV3557ND has shown consistent early maturity in our trials allowing it to be one of the first varieties to market. It has a round high bulb and an attractive dark yellow bronze skin. It combines excellent skin quality with bulb firmness. With the addition of very good sprouting tolerance, this variety remains stable once packed, during transport and when on the shelves. SV3557ND also gives an extremely high

percentage of bulbs with single centres, so it is also highly suitable for processing purposes.'

RS07751481: high yield and long term storage

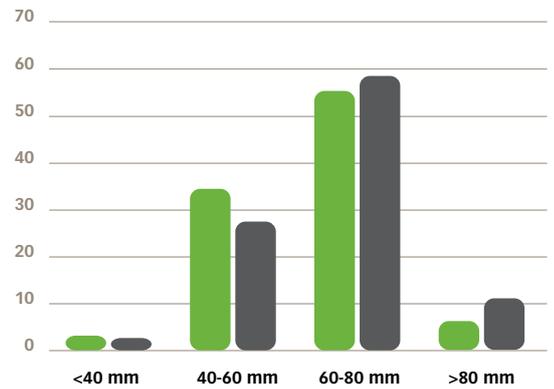
The new commercial introduction from Seminis this year is RS07751481. Laura continues: 'RS07751481 is a main to mid early variety with long term storage potential. The variety shows high yield and gives a higher proportion of larger bulbs. RS07751481 also gives a very good quality bulb from storage. It combines high tolerance to sprouting with excellent bulb firmness and good skin quality to give a high quality product.'

Relative firmness



Source: Monsanto internal trials over 6 locations

Size grading (%) (86% within the 40-80 mm range)



Source: Monsanto internal trials over 9 locations

RS07751481 
Standard 



myonion.co.uk

Choosing the right onion

The choice of the most suitable onion variety can be difficult. There are many variables that play a role in your choice, such as the soil on which you grow, diseases and climate. Seminis has developed a smart tool, which helps you choose the variety that suits you best: The Onion Web tool. In a few steps you will get personal advice for your individual needs and growing conditions. Based on your personal growing situation, the my onion will determine the onion variety that best matches your wishes and circumstances.



You will find the Onion Webtool on myonion.co.uk

If you feel you need more details, our crop advisors are happy to contact you and discuss the options to find the right onion for you.



Onions from season to season:

	Early	Mid early	Mid early to main	Main
 Nordics	Barito	SV3557ND	Premito RS 07751481	Baldito Bennito Sunnito
 UK		SV3557ND	RS 07751481	Bennito Tangito Mannito



Annette Hägnefelt | Barito

The earliest slot within the Nordics

Since 2008, Weibulls Horto has distributed the Seminis onion portfolio in The Nordics. Annette Hägnefelt is the business manager at Weibulls Horto. With 30 years of experience in breeding and in vegetable seeds, she is now responsible for the product portfolio in Denmark and Sweden.

Annette says: 'The onion market is very competitive at the moment. The onion prices, from the growers to retail, are not that high at the moment, so growers strongly demand reliable varieties, such as Barito.'

Reliable variety

'Barito is the most important variety in this region. It has been successful for many years and growers are quite devoted to this variety. They are used to it and know the features by heart. They are very happy with the performance of Barito.' Annette continues: 'Barito has an earlier slot than any other variety and it produces a high yield at an early stage as well. Another benefit of Barito is that it adapts well to all seasons as it can cope with all weather conditions. Barito is as uniform as an early variety can be and what's more: Barito is tolerant to bolting.' As mentioned

else where in this newsletter, Seminis introduces a new variety: RS07751481. Annette and her clients already have some experience with it, as it has already been in trials for several years in the Nordics. Annette: 'Our first experience with RS07751481 was positive, mainly because this onion shows a high percentage of bulbs in the 60 to 80 mm diameter. The product excels in uniformity and does well in storage.'



Tom Will agronomist at Vegetable Consultancy Services (UK) Ltd | Bennito

Bennito is a good onion for lighter land

Tim Will is an independent vegetable agronomist specializing in root vegetable worldwide. He advises a significant percentage of the UK onion growers ranging from the lightest sands to deepest black peats. His clients seek onions with contrasting characteristics so to optimize production on their specific soil types and production systems. Bennito, a main crop onion from Seminis, is a variety that he recommends to companies that grow on the lighter sandy soils.

Tom: 'Bennito has a strong root system; it is a robust onion. It has a production niche on sandy soils as productivity is higher than many standard Rijnsburgers, especially in the hotter seasons when regular irrigation is insufficient. Bennito get less stressed and show less doubles and less pinking.'

Features

Tom continues: 'Bennito is an attractive onion. It has a nice, round shape and a strong skin with two to three layers. Bennito is suitable for processing and pre packing.'

Another feature is that this variety has a slightly better behavior against mildew than most of varieties in the market.' Bennito combines uniformity with storability: 'The storage capability of Bennito is just fine. But its uniformity in maturity makes it a good onion to store. The sprouting tolerance is okay as well.'

Choice for Bennito

Bennito is a reliable performer and consequently is a standard choice for the sand land growers in England.'

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