



SEED & FIELD SERVICES LTD

ONION FOCUS 2020



NEWSLETTER

SFS SEMINIS ELK AND PLK

It has been a pleasing first season for Seed and Field Services (SFS), with our first year of Seminis ELK and PLK seed production in 2019 proving to be very successful. It has provided us with great satisfaction seeing the resultant commercial crops coming off the ground, and to see the strong traits we have seen in Seminis ELK consistently over many years still obvious as we expected.

With good stocks of seed in the vault, and the 2020 seed harvest in full swing from both the North and South Islands we will be again offering growers good quality ELK and PLK seed this year.



Harvesting of SFS ELK Seed commencing in the Wairarapa



Commercial crop of SFS/Seminis ELK waiting to be picked up

SEED CLEANING

In January of this year Seed and Field Services took delivery of our new Oliver Gravity Separator. The final stages of installation are underway, in time for the pending arrival of the new seasons onion seed crops.

This represents an exciting addition that Seed and Field Services will be able to offer customers going forward. For a number of years we have worked closely with growers, cleaning and improving seed lines and size lot grading to their specifications. With the arrival of the gravity separator, we will be able to extend the range of services and the quality of the end product.

This will be in addition to the growing list of “Seed Enhancement” services we already offer, including Seed Priming, Seed Testing, Seed Disinfestation and of course Seed Coating which has been the mainstay of the business for over 20 years.



SEED TREATMENT TRIALS

Since 2013, spearheaded by Andrew Culley and with the support of Peter Wright and the Plant and Food Research Station, Seed and Field Services Ltd has embarked on a number of in house trials evaluating new possible chemical seed treatments for Onions.

Some of the earlier trial work by SFS contributed to the registration of Illevo Prime as an onion seed treatment for the control of white rot. This has now replaced some old chemistry that had been used for years and was no longer effective, and continues to bring outstanding results.



In recent years the focus has moved to Onion seed treatments for Smut, which continues to be a problem in the district. Again the earlier trials showing some of the older chemistry which had been used for a number of years was no longer giving control. In May of 2019 Andrew Culley and Philip Picot visited onion growing regions in Ontario and New York State. The focus of the visit was, in particular, to look at their approaches for the control of Onion Smut and other onion diseases. Two days were with Mary Ruth McDonald (Station Supervisor) and Kevin Vander Kooi (Research Technician) at the University of Guelph Muck Crops Research Station. A lot of recent research had been focussed on the control of Onion Smut in the region, where losses of onions to smut can be in excess of 70% if chemical controls (seed treatment or in furrow treatment) are not used. On the back of Industry and Government Funded research work completed at the station, new chemical seed treatments have recently gained registration for use on onions in Canada and proving to be very effective, reducing the reliance on traditional in furrow granular chemical application.

At Seed and Field we have been continually undertaking trial work (unfortunately without the outside funding!) looking at new seed chemical treatments for onions—We continue to focus on seed treatment additives for the control of onion smut, which for onion growers has the potential to be devastating as it can be in other growing regions.

CURRAWONG

New Introduction from Seminis, Currawong (SV8968) is an early maturity ELK type, similar to Ayoba. Currawong has shown in trials improved Downey Mildew resistance, good yield potential with good quality bulbs with excellent skins for an onion harvested before Christmas.

Sow from late May to early June for a late December harvest.



AYOBA

Ayoba

A proven performer in the Franklin area makes a return this year with new season seed available. The results from the early maturing Hybrid have been impressive over the past few seasons. Ayoba provides a good option for a machine harvestable early onion, that has some mid term storage potential. Ayoba features include very good plant vigour and excellent uniformity in both size and shape with very firm bulbs.

Sow from Mid May to Mid June for a late December/early January harvest



HARRIER

New ELK Hybrid introduction from Seminis .

Maturity is similar to ELK, top down is very even falling between Christmas/New Year, and almost 100% within a few days. Tops seemed to die and dry back a lot quicker than ELK. Bulb shape is slightly flattened globe. Bulbs are very firm and very low incidence of bolters, virtually none.

Harrier appears to have a wide potential seeding window, however the ideal time seems to be from late May until end of June.

Commercial seed will be available for 2020.



SFS ONIONS

HOT SPRING YELLOW

First early brown onion that has been proven over a number of years. Hot Spring Yellow features strong bolt tolerance and good tolerance to mildew compared to some of the other first early's on the market. Typically globe to flat globe shape with good yields, and hand harvest is required.

Sow late April /Early May for a early November harvest.



SFS SEMINIS ELK

In 2019, Seed and Field Services in Partnership with Seminis, re-introduced ELK and PLK onion seed to New Zealand Onion Growers. Good quantities of both varieties will be available for 2020.

To produce the seed we have used genuine Seminis Stock Seed as the 'source' genetic material. The Seminis ELK and PLK varieties have long been recognised in the market as the standard for bulb quality and bulb storage.

Please contact us if we have not already been in touch with you, to secure the best quality ELK and PLK seed available.



SFS SEMINIS PLK

EARLY RED ONION—SWEET RED IMPROVED

As the name suggests, an improved Sweet Red type from Premier Seeds, with the advantage of being a more globe shaped bulb, dark red skins and good early internal colour. Can be sown in a similar time frame to Sweet Red, and has shown good bolt tolerance in early sowings.

Sow early May for a late November harvest.



PENDARVES

Pendarves Hybrid onion has been trialled in the region for two seasons. It is the ideal replacement for Shinto with growers who are looking for much improved skin quality in their early onions.

Pendarves most notable plant feature is it's early vigour and plant survivability - and with that in mind it is important to give Pendarves more space when seeding. Has shown good bolt tolerance from late May seedings and very good uniformity in bulb shape.

Sow late May/Early June for a late November harvest.



TREKKER

Trekker is a new introduction from Terranova seeds in the late PLK maturity slot. In trials to date Trekker has shown excellent plant vigour producing strong tops. The resultant onion crop has featured excellent uniformity in bulb shape and size, with good thick dark brown skins.

Limited seed of Trekker will be available this season for growers to try in their late onion sowings.



RUBILLION

New hybrid red onion introduction. Rubillion is a late maturing storage red onion, that has excellent vigour with strong healthy tops, and strong white roots.

It has the ability to produce large globe shaped bulbs that are very firm with excellent colour and good skins.

Rubillion to date in trials has shown good storage potential also, which should offer growers another option for a long storage red.



PELTON

New hybrid brown onion with a slightly later maturity than Rhinestone. Peloton has extremely uniform globe shaped bulbs with attractive skins, slightly darker than Rhinestone.

Peloton has good vigour with tops that are not too thick in the neck, and go down very evenly. Trials to date show Peloton should give excellent pack outs and offer medium to long term storage making it suitable for export.



ONION SEED COATINGS

SEEDPELL®

SeedPell is a light weight pellet for vegetable species. The pellet provides an optimum speed of emergence and superior uniformity under a range of environmental conditions. SeedPell has a smooth finish and strong integrity that holds up under planter stress. It is also possible to apply higher rates of approved chemicals safely to pelleted seed. Performance and quality consistency are the prime benefits of Seed Enhancements SeedPell vegetable pellets. Use in pneumatic (vacuum) or Stanhay belt seeders.

SEEDPELL PLUS®

SeedPell Plus is a heavier pellet formulated specifically for areas of lower fertility or newly, out of pasture type situations. SeedPell Plus has a blend of starter fertilisers to help the young plant quickly establish and thrive. This pellet is also suitable for growers simply requiring a heavier pellet.

SEEDPELL LIGHT®

A lighter weight coating increasing seed size to achieve greater drilling accuracy and singulation when using pneumatic (vacuum) drilling equipment. SeedPell Light has a smooth finish and strong integrity to avoid 'chipping' and blocking of vacuum seed plates.

ENVIROPELL®

EnviroPell is an Asure Quality certified organic seed coating that uses a naturally occurring, mined blend of clays. EnviroPell can be used in any full organic planting program. The EnviroPell coating can be used with most type of vegetable seeds.

SEED TREATMENTS



ILeVo® Prime

Every now and again a new product comes onto the market, that is a complete game changer. For the 2020 Onion planting season **ILeVo® Prime** will be again available as a registered onion seed treatment. **ILeVo® Prime** exhibits outstanding white rot (*Sclerotium cepivorum*) control in the young onion crop. A strong healthy root system and a vigorous green top provide the plant with an excellent start to life.

Please contact us for more information.

ILeVo® Prime is a registered trademark of Bayer Group.