



SEED & FIELD SERVICES LTD



NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCING SARAH MAXWELL

Sarah joined us back in August 2020, just before we went into a level 3 lockdown. So her first couple days of work were spent trapped the other side of the regional border whilst the correct paperwork was assembled. Many of you will have ready had a chance to meet Sarah as she has been around the district looking after our trials program and to train as an agronomist.

Sarah has spent the previous 14 years as an amenity gardener focused mainly on commercial gardens around the Auckland area.

She is a dedicated worker and likes to keep busy.

In her spare time she hangs out with her family and cooks a lot of BBQ.



SFS SEMINIS ELK AND PLK

It has been another pleasing season for Seed and Field Services (SFS), with two years of Seminis ELK and PLK seed production 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 2021 seed harvest in full swing we will be again offering growers good quality ELK and PLK seed this year.



SEED CLEANING

In January of 2020 Seed and Field Services took delivery of our new Oliver Gravity Separator, and now to complement that we have added a state of the art colour sorter to our arsenal of seed cleaning equipment 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 colour sorter, 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 PRIMING

Seed and Field Services have been priming a range of seed since as early as 2008. We are the only company that currently has the facility to prime seed here in NZ.

Extensive trial work has been conducted over many years in particular with Spinach, Parsnip and Onion seed, measuring the improvements that can be gained as the result of using primed seed.

What is Seed Priming?

The basic principle of seed priming is to allow the seed to take up sufficient water to enter the “lag phase”, that is to move past the first stage of germination, but stopped in the lag phase prior to radicle emergence. The seed is then dried back and held in that lag phase until planting.

Why would we prime onion seed?

Seed priming onion seed can improve seedling emergence and improve the uniformity of germination (ie: seed will germinate quicker and more evenly) giving the crop a ‘headstart’. This can help with improving populations and uniformity of the crop. Seed priming can also allow the repair of deteriorated but viable seed— so it is possible to be used to improve the germination rate of lower vigour seed.

The photos of onion seed in germination trays demonstrate some of the results that were achieved with seed priming. These are identical onion seed lines, the primed seed on the right versus unprimed seed on the left.



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

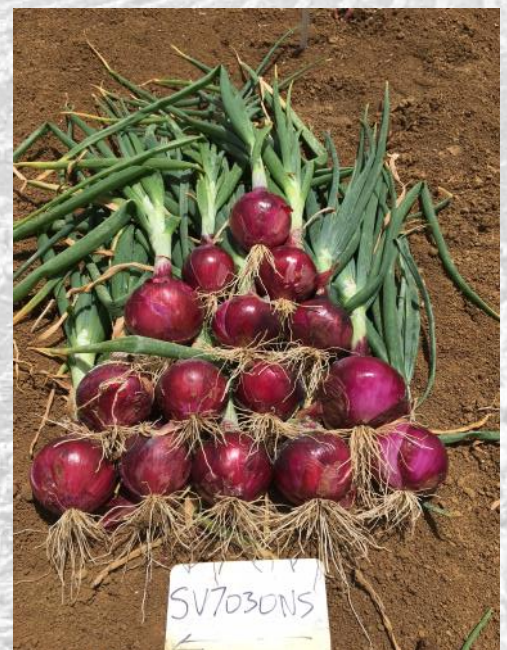


SV7030

SV7030

Early maturity Red onion to compare to Malbec. 7030 has good plant vigour, and needs to be seeded late May for a mid/late December harvest. Bulbs are a flattened globe/Grano shape with deep red external colour and a high percentage of single centres. 7030 has very good yield potential and offers a good option to growers for the pre xmas harvest time.

Sow late May for a mid December Harvest



SFS ONIONS

EROS

EROS - is a new introduction for 2021 from Seed and Field Services, which has come out of the Clause product range. EROS is a true 'First early brown' with tops down being late October for a early November harvest. Trials from the last two seasons have shown it to be one of the earliest maturing short day varieties to enter the NZ market. EROS bulbs have a slight flat globe/grano shape, with good uniformity and firmness for a first early variety. Limited seed is available for 2021 and would be useful for growers of traditional early onions to compare to their standards.

Sow from late April/Early May for an late October/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 2021.

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 and uniformity 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 uniform globe shaped bulbs that are very firm with excellent colour and good skins, and are highly single centred.

Rubillion to date 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.