

KULTURSAAT e.V.

Association for Breeding Research and Crop Maintenance
Based on Biodynamic Principles

Breeding Biography of a Biodynamic Variety

Updated: 15/02/2017



**Greenhouse cucumber
for direct marketing**

AROLA

German Plant Variety Registry-Code:
GU 392

Breeder:

Christine NAGEL

Variety Description:

AROLA is a robust cucumber variety that demonstrates resistance to pests and diseases. The fruits are long, from medium- to dark-green color, and slightly bristled. AROLA has a somewhat firmer shell than conventional greenhouse cucumber, but can still be enjoyed without peeling. The flavor is full, mild-nutty and stands out clearly from that of other varieties.

When cultivating AROLA, one should note that this variety predominantly bears on the side shoots, and therefore they should not be pruned off in the usual manner. The lateral shoots should be shortened 1-2 leaves after the fruit set. Once the support wire is in place, the cut on the fruit-bearing shoot can be further shortened. Since AROLA has less than the regular stem fruiting, the early yield is relatively low; but due to its robustness, it yields a medium to high yield, since it can be harvested well into autumn. Over many years, trials on market gardens have proven that AROLA is a worthy crop and very popular with consumers. Its robustness allows it to withstand suboptimal conditions.

Quality tests with picture-forming methods, like rising picture and sensitive crystallization, show AROLA to be a cucumber of strong constitution. Due to the mixed flowering of AROLA (other greenhouse cucumbers are so-called gynocious, producing only female flowers), it achieves a true and complete fruit formation; the fruits bear within them germinating seeds. This seed formation also contributes a special flavor to this variety and allows further propagation.

Breeding History:

AROLA was first bred out of the hybrid BURPLESS TASTY GREEN after several generations by Hubert Mußler in the early nineties at the Mußler Demeter vegetable farm in Bühl/Baden. It was passed on to the farm of the Lebensgemeinschaft Bingenheim e.V. ("Living Community" for the handicapped) in 1997 for further development. This cucumber variety was further bred there, and later at the breeding garden of Nagel & Heinze in Eichstetten near Kaiserstuhl (both managed biodynamically) by Ch. Nagel.

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Breeding on the variety was carried out by means of targeted cross-breeding and single plant selection from

60 to 120 plants, based on the uniformity of fruit color, preservation of robustness and flavor, and increase of early yield.

As of the year 2007, AROLA was recognized and approved as a variety by the German Plant Variety Registry. Maintenance breeding of AROLA takes place in Eichstetten near Kaiserstuhl, in the greenhouses of the market garden of G. and A. Feldmann, by the breeder there. The Bingenheimer Saatgut AG company is, among other things, responsible for the organization of the multiplication and commercialization of sale seed.