

Association for Breeding Research and Crop Maintenance **Based on Biodynamic Principles** 

Breeding Biography of a Biodynamic Variety



## Carrot for bulk sale and bunching

Updated: 15/02/2017

MILAN / Nantaise 2

German Plant Variety Registry Code: MOG 92

**Breeder:** 

Michael PICKEL

## **Variety Description:**

The variety MILAN is a Nantaise-type carrot suitable for both early and late cultivation as bunching carrots or for bulk sale.

An outdoor sowing from the end of February can be harvested as of the end of May. Depending on the weather, a harvest for storage can be sown up until the end of May or beginning of June. Maintaining a healthy stock is important for storage. Therefore, raised bed propagation, generous row spacing, and repeated applications of the biodynamic quartz preparation are recommended.

## Characteristics of MILAN:

- pleasant, balanced flavor
- smooth skin
- bright orange color after washing
- cylindrical blunt root form.

## **Breeding History:**

MILAN was developed out of the conventional open-pollinated variety HILMAR (from Hild). The aim of the breeding was to achieve an open-pollinated carrot variety with a distinguished flavor from common hybrid varieties, is high-yielding and that the foliage remains healthy for a long enough time.



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Since 1998 MILAN has been repeatedly bred through positive mass selection at the biodynamically stewarded Piluweri market garden. In addition to the other common selection criteria were external appearance, taste improvement, and good foliage health.

A number of farms regularly grow MILAN, and, in part, together in comparison with other varieties. It has demonstrated that with the appropriate crop management, MILAN is a flavorful, high-yielding variety. It is appreciated by consumers because of its good, but not intrusive taste. Since it can be marketed as a variety under the cultivar name MILAN, the slightly less yield compared to a hybrid (MILAN's yield is 80-90% of a comparable hybrid variety) can be offset by a correspondingly higher (premium-) price. Essential for the breeding work was its "embeddedness" in a biodynamic market garden and the use of the biodynamic preparations.

The cultivar was approved at the German Plant Variety Registry in December, 2005. The maintenance breeding is performed at Piluweri Farm. The Bingenheimer Saatgut AG is responsible for the organization of the seed multiplication and commercialization of sale seed.