

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

Breeding Biography of a Biodynamic Variety



Swiss chard

PIROL

German Plant Variety Registry Code: MG 38

Updated: 15/02/2017

Breeder:

Christina HENATSCH

Variety Description:

PIROL is a stalk chard with vigorous growth for multiple harvests. The dark green, lightly crumpled leaves of this variety stand upright. Its stalks are medium-wide, fleshy and have a bright yellow color. PIROL has a mild aromatic flavor and good sweetness.

Breeding History:

The original stock of PIROL came from the yellow variation of the rainbow swiss chard variety BRIGHT LIGHTS. Yearly selection since 2006 on the biodynamic Gut Wulfsdorf farm near Hamburg was based on vigorous plants with upright leaf positioning and medium-wide, thick stalks. The intensive yellow coloration of the stalk and the uniformity of the leaves were further criteria. Yearly taste testing was carried out on selected plants and those with a high oxalic acid content - expressed as a bitter-earthy, sharp flavor – were rejected. Only those plants with a sweet-aromatic flavor were used for further breeding. In this way the variety remarkably improved as the unpleasant flavors no longer were expressed. In addition, attention was paid so that those selected retained and did not lose their stalk color during cooking.

PIROL was approved in 2013 by the German Plant Variety Registry. Maintenance breeding is carried out by Christina Henatsch. The organization of the multiplication and commercialization of sale seed is, among other things, the responsibility of the Bingenheimer Saatgut AG.