



Kohlrabi

RASKO

German Plant Variety Registry Code:
KOK 185

Breeder:

Julian JACOBS

Variety Description:

White kohlrabi with a slight tall-round form, very fine leaf insertion, medium-strong, half-upright foliage, and vigorous color. RASKO is uniform and is of a very good interior quality: delicate, balanced aromatic with a light sweetness.

This variety is suitable for early spring, early summer, and autumn cultivation.

Breeding History:

Original seed stock came from the same named variety RASKO from Ekkarthof Farm, located at Lake Constance in Switzerland. The breeder was Ilmar Randuja. He had developed this variety over 35 years ago. Ilmar Randuja is considered the pioneer of biodynamic vegetable breeding. Since 1965 he has worked on the development of biodynamic vegetable varieties. He mainly distributed his extensive assortment to house gardeners, since market gardeners were reluctant.

The RASKO cultivar, one of Randuja's legacies, almost fell into oblivion after his active time. The variety was then no longer available in Switzerland. A small amount of seed remainder was still found in the seed storage of the Obergrashof vegetable farm. Likewise, there was still a little stored seed available at Ekkarthof. On the basis of these residual stocks, the breeding work began, which since 2004 has been carried on by Julian JACOBS at the biodynamic Obergrashof farm.

The motivation of this work was to make this unique, long since biodynamic variety available again for organic vegetable farming. The main focus would now be to maintain the inner qualities while working on the outer aspects so that RASKO could also be an attractive variety for market gardeners. More specifi-

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cally, attention was paid to a finer stem insertion (simplifies harvest), uniformity of the crop stand, and for vigorous foliage. Uniform harvest period was also selected.

Positive mass selection was used, partly cultivated in biannual, and partly in annual rhythm (immediate sowing of the seed harvested in early July for a selection in the same autumn). Regular taste tests were carried out to maintain or improve the taste quality of RASKO. The tenderness of the kohlrabi is also a result of consistent selection breeding.

During the breeding work at Obergrashof, stock seed was placed in a cow horn and buried over the Holy Nights from the 24th of December, 2007, to 6th of January, 2008. According to the latest findings, such a measure can improve the formative forces.

During the screening of open-pollinated Kohlrabi varieties in 2007 within the framework of the BLE-project "Conservation Bank", RASKO tested positively in comparison to other population varieties and hybrids from quality analysis due to the following observations:

- sweet, pleasant aromatic to nutty flavor
- tender inner quality
- vigorous but also differentiated life forces in a harmonious overall composition based on picture-forming methods and rational formative-force research.

Presumably, the decades-long biodynamic precedent, the "memory" of the RASKO variety, plays a major role in the quality of its life forces; this is evidenced by observations of other varieties. A developmental period of a few days longer than that of hybrids, goes hand in hand with the qualities described above.

The variety was approved in 2010 by the German Plant Variety Registry. Maintenance breeding takes place at Obergrashof vegetable farm by J. Jacobs. The Bingenheimer Saatgut AG is responsible, among other things, for the organization of the multiplication and commercialization of sale seed.