



Storage carrot for late cultivation

ROBILA

German Plant Variety Registry Code:
MOG 116

Breeder:

Thomas HEINZE

Variety Description:

ROBILA is a carrot variety classified as LONG RED BLUNT. It has a cylindrical, long root with lightly flattened shoulders, and a stable leaf stalk. With a growing period of 160 days or more, the variety develops a sweet, lightly nutty, aromatic flavor. Cultivation is suitable for light to medium-heavy soils.

Breeding History:

The original breeding material for ROBILA stems from FORMAT, of the “long red blunt” variety grouping that are coreless. Thomas HEINZE began the breeding work in 1988 in the market gardens of the Lebensgemeinschaft Bingenheim (“Living Community” for the handicapped), which at that time had already been over 50 years cultivated with biodynamic farming.

Selection was carried out in larger crop plots (up to 600 square meters) based on the following criteria:

- homogeneity of the cylindrical root form
- improvement of the skin smoothness and shoulder form
- reduction of green discoloration on shoulders
- achievement of a round, or blunt, root ending
- homogeneity of root color.

Each year from a plot of about 50,000 carrots, approximately 2000 exemplary carrots were selected in autumn. After a final end selection early the next year, the remaining 70 plus chosen were allowed to flower together. Working together with the residents of special need in the gardens of the Lebensgemeinschaft Bingenheim, intensive care and careful harvest of the plants was carried out. The biodynamic preparations were often applied, especially on the seed-bearing plants.

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As of 1992, selection through taste trials was added to the aforementioned criteria. From the 2000 pre-selected carrots, more than a third of the end section of the carrot was cut and from this raw piece, sweetness and aroma were tested. Roots with undesired flavors, such as over-aromatic/dry or soapy were eliminated.

Further propagations demonstrated a significant improvement in aroma and sweetness. Eventually the standards for these criteria were set even higher, until a breeding line was achieved that was particularly sweet and mildly nutty. In the last generations of the selection, cooking the individual specimens was also added to the order of taste trials, so that a variety was developed that was flavorful both raw and cooked. The individually selected carrots were then allowed to flower together with the others, and the seed harvested from these plants kept in a pool for the next sowing.

It was originally intended that this variety be registered by the German Plant Variety Registry as a stem line from the "Coreless Long Red Blunt". However, since it varied significantly, it was eventually entered as an independent variety, with the name ROBILA (from the German, "Red Long Bingenheimer"). The taste trial at the Variety Registry confirmed the outstanding flavor of the variety in comparison to the others.

Registration of the variety was approved by the German Plant Variety Registry in 1998. Maintenance of the stock seed and production of sale seed take place on biodynamic farms, including the farm of the Lebensgemeinschaft Bingenheim. The Bingenheimer Saatgut is responsible, among other things, for the organization of the multiplication and the commercialization of the sale seed.