KULTURSAAT E.V.

Association for Breeding Research and Crop Maintenance Based on Biodynamic Principles

Breeding Biography of a Biodynamic Variety

Updated: 15/02/2017



Chives

SCHMITT

German Plant Variety Registry Code: SNL 50

Breeder:

Sabine WEBER

Variety Description:

Chive variety with medium-sized leaf diameter, half-upright to upright leaf positioning, and blue-green color with a slight wax surface. Suitable for all purposes.

Breeding History:

The variety name SCHMITT indicates the origin of this variety: SCHNITTLAUCH MITTELGROBRÖHRIG ("Medium-thick pipe chive"), which was originally a variety of the HILD Company in Marbach on the Neckar. The varietal registration and thus a new varietal name were necessary, since chives were new in the species list requiring official approval and registration of varieties in the commercial seed directives, before allowed to be placed on the market.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, seed from MITTELGROBRÖHRIG was propagated on several biodynamic farms and were available to the farmers as Demeter seed. Since 1998, seed of the variety was propagated at the Demeter farm of Hohenroth community and bred by S. Weber there. For the maintenance breeding of SCHMITT, plant progeny were cultivated individually, to allow for selection of the lines. By division of the plants and selection between the clones, more accurate assessments are possible than with conventional-horticultural cultivation methods.

The goal of the selection was a variety that could be maintained under biodynamic conditions and (with consideration to its adaptability) carries a slight variation, but is true to its type: vigorous, not too thick cylinder, early cut harvest, but not too early flowering, upright leaf positioning, blue-green color leaves, with a slight wax layer. Since chives tend to be "playful" in their type, in other words very diverse in their expression, further intensive maintenance breeding is still necessary to maintain and improve the quality of the variety SCHMITT.

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The variety was approved in autumn of 2011 by the German Plant Variety Registry. Maintenance breeding is sustained by S. Weber at the farm of the Hohenroth Community. The organization of the multiplication and commercialization of the sale seed is, among other things, the responsibility of the Bingenheimer Saatgut AG.