

Seminis® Watermelon and Melon Guide



Better with every generation.



Every day for 150 years, Seminis has worked to empower our growers by improving the vegetables they grow and providing solutions to their toughest challenges.

Today we are the world's largest developer and marketer of vegetable seeds. But reaching this milestone hasn't been an easy journey. It's a painstaking process that requires patience and the belief that every generation can be better than the last.

At Seminis, we're constantly thinking of the next generation. Not just the next generation of seeds, but the next generation of growers and families all over the world.

Inside cover image: Capogreco Family, Melon Growers, Waroona, WA

Our Experts



Jeff Mills

Melon Breeder,
Monsanto Company, US

Jeff Mills is the melon breeder responsible for developing new cantaloupe hybrids for farmers in the U.S., Australia, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Brazil, and Venezuela. In this role, he leads research efforts developing new melon hybrids with improved flavour, yield, and disease resistance.

Jeff is passionate about food and the application of plant breeding to improve the quality and availability of fruit and vegetables to the public. He uses traditional plant breeding techniques and modern molecular breeding tools to develop hybrids that are grower friendly and offer improved flavour and quality for the consumer. Jeff gets input from farmers, grocers, and consumers throughout the process of developing new melon varieties.

Prior to leading the melon breeding program at Monsanto, Jeff worked developing new molecular markers; these tools are used by breeders to help improve selection efficiency in their breeding programs. He received both his bachelor's degree in Plant Biotechnology, and his master's degree in Horticulture and Agronomy from the University of California at Davis.



Jérôme Bernier

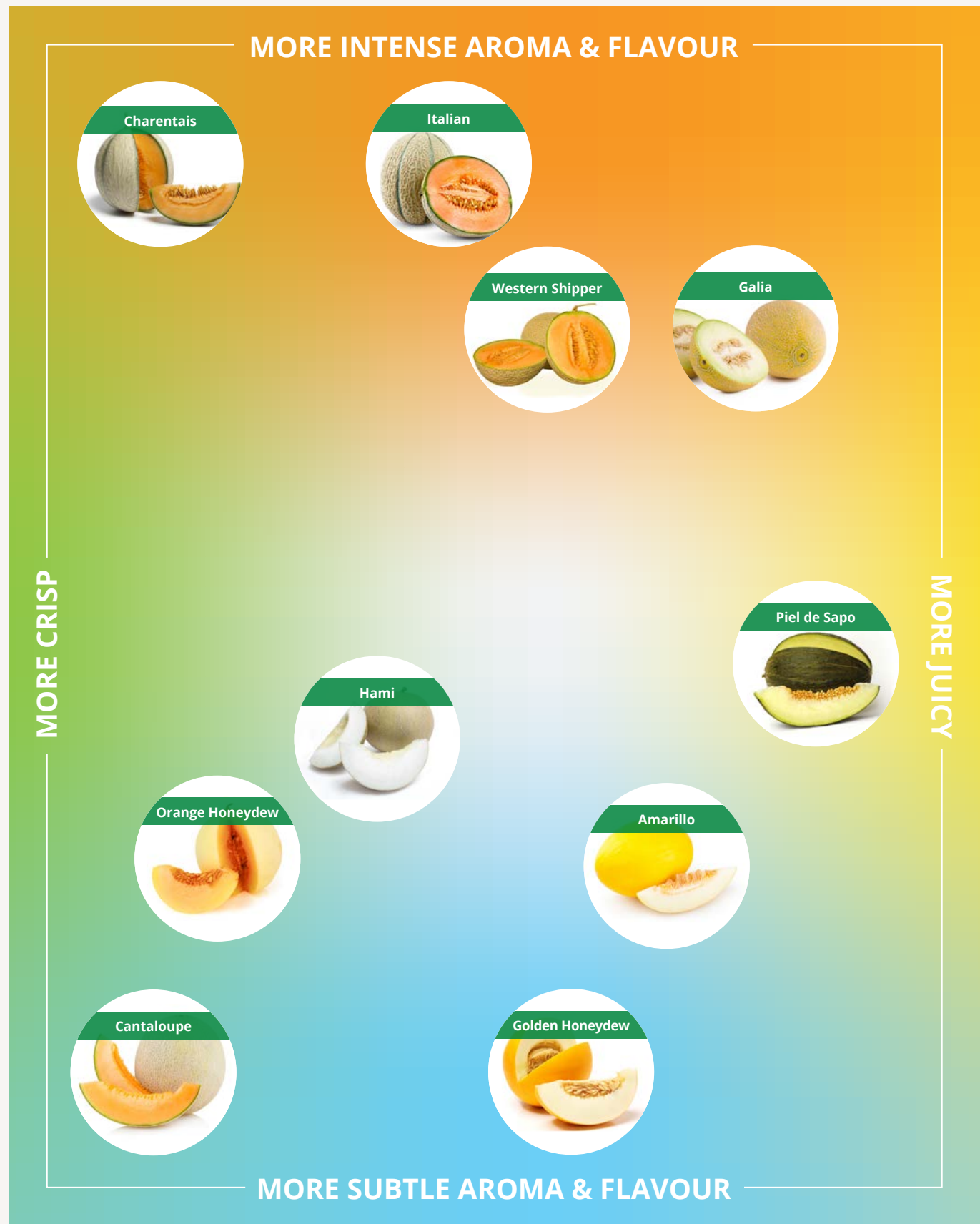
Watermelon Breeder,
Monsanto Company, US

Jérôme Bernier is the watermelon breeder responsible for developing hybrid seedless watermelons for North America and Australia and seeded watermelons for South America. This work involves setting up hybrid trials in each of the major watermelon growing areas (USA, Mexico, Central America, Brazil, Chile, Australia...) in order to identify products that meet local farmers' needs. Other aspects of the work involve managing breeding nurseries in Chile, Guatemala, Mexico and California and participating in genetic studies to identify genetic markers linked to important traits of watermelon.

Jérôme also serves as vice-chair for the Watermelon Research and Development Group, a US-based group that includes most public and private sector watermelon researchers in the United States. This group meets once a year to discuss the status of their research as well as current industry challenges and research needs.

Jérôme received his bachelor's degree in Plant Sciences from McGill University. He then obtained a Ph.D. degree from the University of Alberta. His Ph.D. thesis research was done at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), which is located in the Philippines. His research involved identifying genetic regions that confer drought-resistance in rice.

A world of melons to meet every taste



This graphic is a guide only and does not represent the full range of Seminis Melon varieties. Seminis continues to breed new melon varieties with a range of attributes for growers, retailers and consumers.

Cantaloupes

Seminis has revitalised its portfolio of cantaloupes to ensure they still deliver the strong agronomic performance growers require, but become more appealing to consumers. Expect brighter flesh colour and more flavour in this refreshed generation of market-favourite melons. These melons have been bred specifically for Australian conditions.



Don David (SV3394MF) EXTENDED SHELF LIFE MELON

Don David has demonstrated excellent performance in trials in Australia and the US. It is very sweet, with a brix of around 14 degrees. It is easy to grow with good plant vigour and fruit coverage, and the fruit is uniform and has an attractive netting and vivid orange fruit colour. Excels under warm growing conditions and is an excellent melon for export.

Picking indicator: Vertical cracking on the periduct

Maturity:	Late
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Size:	1.8kg-2.2kg
Fruit Shape:	Round to slightly oval
Internal Fruit Colour:	Dark orange
Resistances:	HR Fom:0-2



Hard Rock

A proven favourite, Hard Rock is a long shelf life western shipper melon that excels under warm season growing conditions. Hard Rock has crisp flesh, a small seed cavity and fantastic internal colour. Growers also love it because it has unprecedented field holding ability. An excellent melon for export.

Picking indicator: Vertical cracking on the periduct

Maturity:	Late
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Size:	1.8-2.2kg
Fruit Shape:	Round to slightly oval
Internal Fruit Colour:	Dark orange
Resistances:	-

Average fruit sizes expected when grown in preferred timeslot. Please contact your Seminis sales representative for guidance specific to your production area.

Italian Type Melon



Sun Blushed (SVMF5196) EXTENDED SHELF LIFE MELON

Sun Blushed has demonstrated excellent flavour and appearance in overseas trials. The variety has definite picking flexibility, allowing harvest at either forced or full slip. It has a good balance between vegetative and generative growth and has good harvest uniformity. This is an ideal replacement to the Jaipur variety.

Picking indicator: Cream skin colour, can be picked at forced or full slip

Maturity:	Early
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Size:	1.8kg-2.2kg
Fruit Shape:	Uniform slightly oval
Internal Fruit Colour:	Dark orange
Resistances:	HR Fom:0-2 / Px:3.5A / Ag



SVMF7641 LONG SHELF LIFE MELON

This large silver skinned cantaloupe is suitable for Northern production areas in autumn and spring. It is a large fruited variety with firm flesh, a good brix and has a small, tight cavity.

Picking indicator: Vertical cracking on the periduncle and slight skin change from green to cream

Maturity:	Mid to late
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Size:	1.8kg-2.2kg
Fruit Shape:	Round to slightly oval
Internal Fruit Colour:	Orange
Proposed Resistance Claims:	HR Fom:0,1,2 / Px:3.5A / Ag



SV7881ML LARGE EXTENDED SHELF LIFE MELON

SV7881ML is an early maturing, sutured, extended shelf life Italian melon. Fruit are uniform in setting, shape and size. This variety is suited to very warm production environments.

Picking indicator: Quarter cracking around the periduncle

Maturity:	Early Maturing
Vine Vigour:	Medium
Fruit Size:	2kg
Fruit Shape:	Round
Internal Fruit Colour:	Orange
Resistances:	–



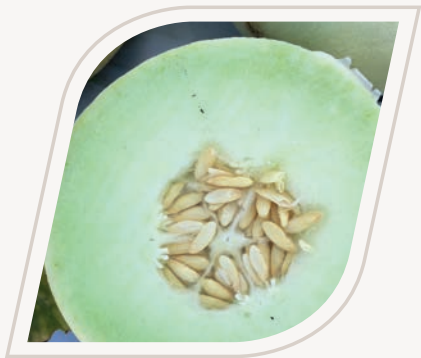
SV9790MC RED FLESHED MELON

SV9790MC is the largest charentais currently available from Seminis Australia. With a sutured rind, it has dark, orange to red flesh with a small tight cavity. Flesh is firm with very high brix. Suitable to warm production areas.

Picking indicator: Quarter cracking around the periduncle

Maturity:	Mid
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Size:	Maximum of 1.8kg when grown in preferred timeslot
Fruit Shape:	Oval to oblong
Internal Fruit Colour:	Dark orange/light red
Resistances:	HR Fom:0,1,2 IR Gc/Px:1,2,3,5

Honeydews



Classique

WHITE SKIN GREEN FLESH HONEYDEW

Classique is a very firm, crisp, green-fleshed melon. It produces consistent good yields of high quality fruit under warm growing conditions. A standard melon for export.

Maturity:	Mid-late
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Shape:	Round
Internal Fruit Colour:	Green
Resistances:	HR Fom:0,2 IR Px:1

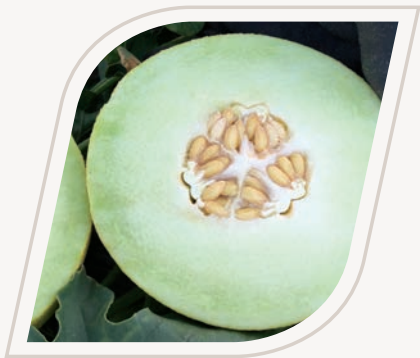


Glacier

WHITE SKIN GREEN FLESH HONEYDEW

Glacier produces oval, medium-to-large fruit with excellent external appearance. It is a white-skinned honeydew with crisp, green flesh.

Maturity:	Mid
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Shape:	Oval
Internal Fruit Colour:	Green
Resistances:	–



SV7844MH

WHITE SKIN GREEN FLESH HONEYDEW

New Honeydew with excellent yield. Long Shelf Life Melon. Firm, green-fleshed honeydew. Uniform fruit size and high yields. High brix giving sweeter taste.

Maturity:	Mid-late maturity
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Shape:	Round to slightly oval
Internal Fruit Colour:	Green
Proposed Resistance Claims:	Px:3.5A / Ag



El Paso

YELLOW SKIN WHITE FLESH HONEYDEW

A yellow-skinned honeydew with large fruit and crisp white flesh. A high yielding melon.

Maturity:	Mid
Vine Vigour:	Medium
Fruit Shape:	Round to oval
Internal Fruit Colour:	White
Resistances:	–



SVMA6628
YELLOW SKIN WHITE FLESH HONEYDEW

Complement to El Paso, SV6628 offers growers a smaller melon during the summer period in southern markets. It has good potential for high yield with consistent clean fruit and high quality internals. Very sweet.

Maturity:	Early
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Shape:	Slightly oval
Internal Fruit Colour:	White
Proposed Resistance Claims:	HR Fom:0,1,2 / Px:3.5A / Ag



SV7484MA (Orange Candy)
YELLOW SKINNED ORANGE FLESH AMARILLO

SV7484MA is a new semi-rough amarillo variety with orange flesh and a glossy golden skin that makes the product a stand out amongst its competitors. With extremely high sugar content, this melon has a sherbert-like taste and is a favourite for consumers, young and old. This variety has a distinct picking indicator, where the skin changes from yellow-green to a bright yellow which makes it easy to harvest. The flesh has a crispy texture and excellent taste, making it a great fit for the cut and convenience market due to colour and firmness.

Maturity:	Late
Vine Vigour:	Medium to high
Fruit Size:	1.7-1.9kg
Fruit Shape:	Round to slightly elongated
Internal Fruit Colour:	Orange
Resistances:	HR Fom: 0,1; Ag; MNSV IR Gc; Px 1,2,5,3.5

Watermelons

When it comes to watermelons, Seminis' pipeline has you covered. There's a watermelon for every market: large melons with deep red, seedless flesh for cutting, and new "personal" melons, for smaller fridges and appetites.



Joy Ride

Joy Ride is a large fruited, striped, elongated watermelon suitable to all production areas in Australia and New Zealand. The flesh is red, firm and sweet with reduced cracking. Under stressful conditions, Joy Ride exhibits less hard seed coats than competitor products meaning less rejections at market and consumer end. It is suitable for growing all year round. We recommend utilising a short vine pollinator like Wingman, with this variety.

Maturity:	Mid
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Size:	7-10kg
Fruit Shape:	Blocky
Internal Fruit Colour:	Red
Resistances:	IR Fon:1



Summer Breeze

Summer Breeze has a thin, mottle striped rind with a round-blocky shaped fruit. It has yielded well in overseas trials and has demonstrated it can travel well over long distances, making it a possibility for export. It has excellent eating qualities and average BRIX of 11.7°. Size is a consistent 7-8kg with superior deep red internals and exceptional eating quality. Strong hard seed coat resistance. Improved production performance (thicker rind) when grafted on RS841.

Maturity:	Mid
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Size:	7-8kg
Fruit Shape:	Round
Internal Fruit Colour:	Red
Resistances:	HR Co IR Fon:1



Sweet Trick

This compact, juicy watermelon is small in size but big on appeal. With its dark green rind, smaller size, seedless red flesh and sweet taste, Sweet Trick appeals to the modern consumer’s tastes and shopping habits. Packed with flavour and weighing 5–7kg, it’s an easy-to-handle, fridge-friendly melon. Sweet Trick provides reliable yields and matures nearly a week earlier than larger melons, providing some gross margin relief.

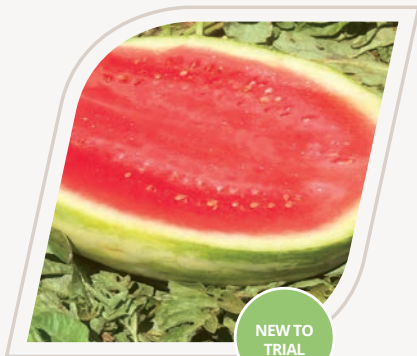
Maturity:	Summer
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Size:	Deep Red
Fruit Shape:	5–7kg
Internal Fruit Colour:	Round to oval
Resistances:	HR Co IR Fon:1



SVWD7062

SVWD7062 is a large, red fleshed seedless watermelon with a dark-green rind. Suitable for all production areas. Excellent internals. Strong hard seed coat resistance.

Maturity:	Early to mid
Vine Vigour:	Strong
Fruit Size:	Large 8.5kg+
Fruit Shape:	Round Shape
Internal Fruit Colour:	Dark Red Flesh
Proposed Resistance Claims:	IR FON1 and IR CO1 (anthracnose)



SV7080WB

SV7080WB is a personal seedless watermelon still undergoing trial to determine suitability for Australian conditions.

Maturity:	Early
Vine Vigour:	Medium
Fruit Size:	2.5- 3kg
Fruit Shape:	Round
Internal Fruit Colour:	Red
Proposed Resistance Claims:	IR Fon:1

Specialties



Wingman

SEEDLESS POLLINATOR

Wingman is an extended flowering polliniser to increase the likelihood of the available pollen during critical flowering of seedless watermelons. It has small, grey crushable fruit for increased safety while walking through the field and are easily distinguishable during harvest. The vine is light and flexible and does not compete with the seedless and enables flowers to be presented easily to bees.

Resistances: IR Fon:1



RS841

WATERMELON ROOTSTOCK

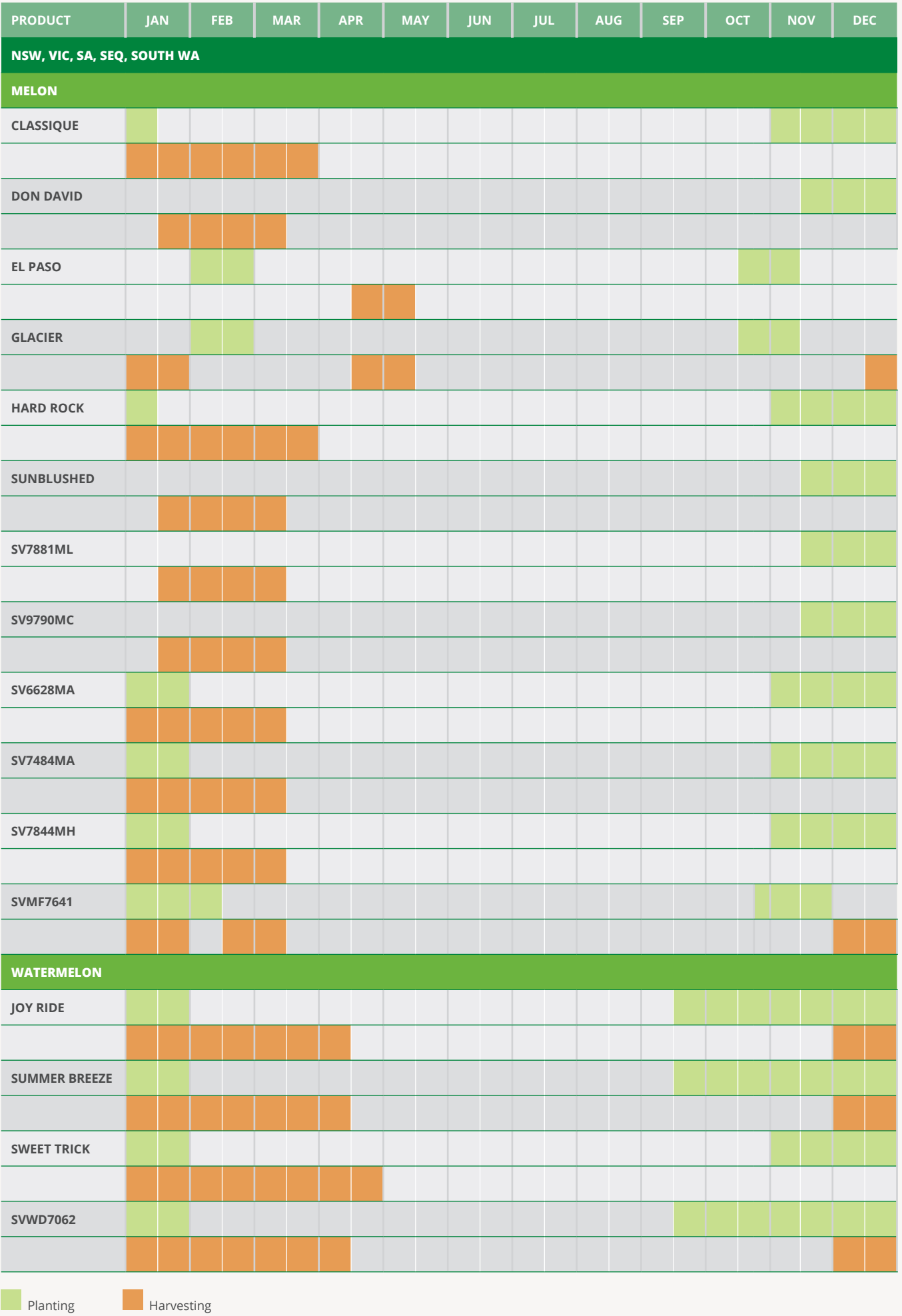
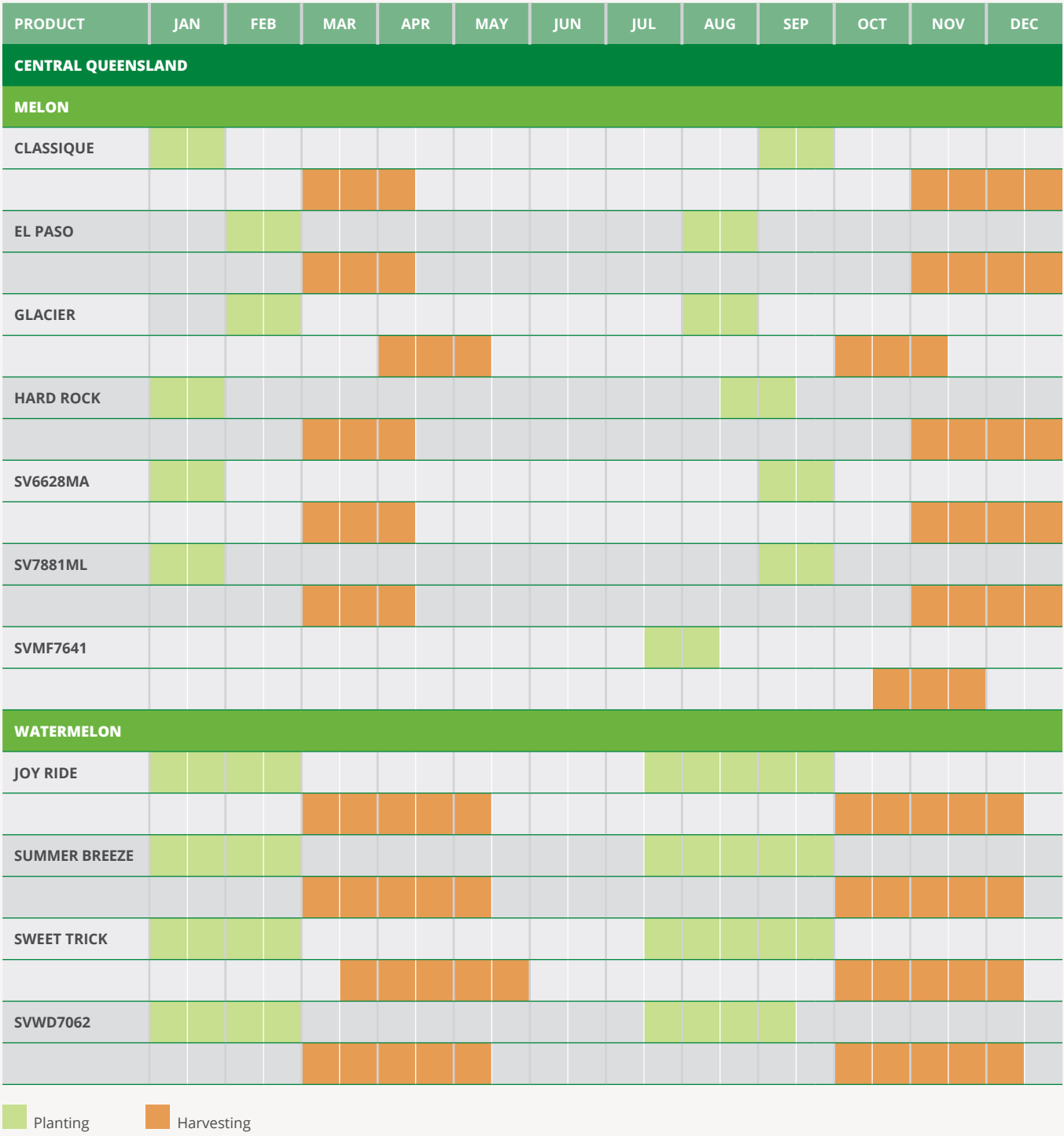
Interspecific squash hybrid rootstock suitable for watermelon and melon grafting. The ease of use for grafting and the ability to grow in stressful conditions make RS841 the reference for the cucurbit rootstock market.

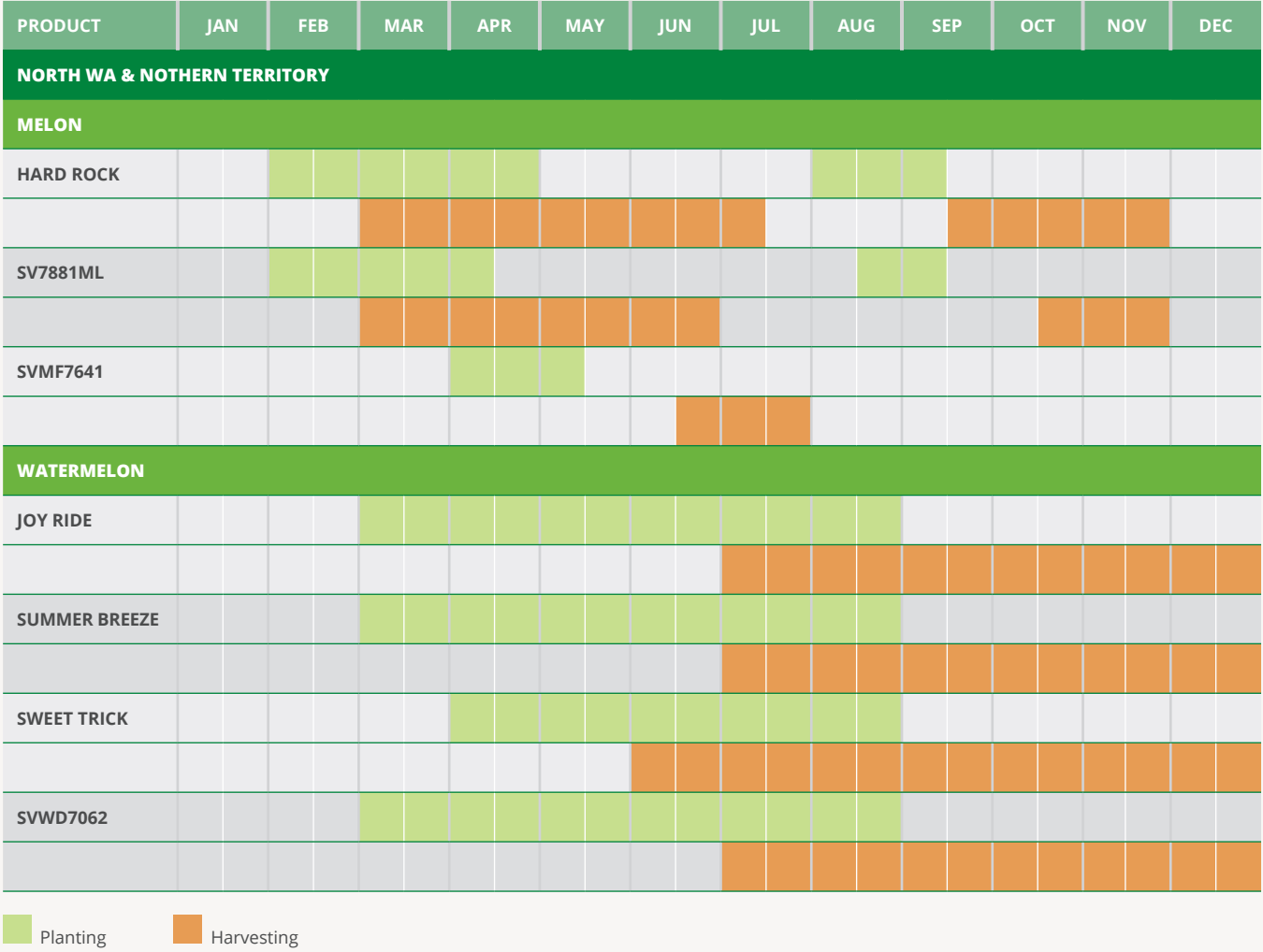
Resistances: HR Fom:0,1,2,1.2/Foc:1-2/Fon:1-2/Forc/Ps
IR Vd/Ma/Mi/Mj/Rs

Watermelon and Melon
Planting Calendar

PRODUCT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
NORTH QUEENSLAND												
MELON												
CLASSIQUE												
EL PASO												
GLACIER												
HARD ROCK												
SV7881ML												
SV9790MC												
SV6628												
SV7484MA												
SV7884MH												
SVMF7641												
WATERMELON												
JOY RIDE												
SUMMER BREEZE												
SWEET TRICK												
SVWD7062												

PlantingHarvesting





Resistance Codes

CUCURBITS		
CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME
MELONS		
Gc (PMe)	Golovinomyces cichoracearum (was Erysiphe cichoracearum)	Powdery Mildew
Px (PM)	Podosphaera xanthii (was Sphaerotheca fulginea)	Powdery Mildew
Fom	Fusarium oxysprum f.sp. Melonis	Fusarium Wilt
MNSV	Melon Necrotic Spot Virus	Melon Necrotic Spot Virus
Ag	Aphis gossypii (Cotton aphid)	Aphids
WATERMELON		
Co	Colletotrichum orbiculare	Anthracnose
Fon	Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. niveum	Fusarium Wilt
Vd	Verticillium dahliae	Verticillium Wilt
Ma/Mi/Mj	Melodogyne arenaria, incognita, javanica	Root Knot Nematode
Rs	Rhizoctonia solani Rhizoctonia	Rhizoctonia Root Rot

Definitions

ABBREVIATION	TERM	DESCRIPTION
TSL	Traditional Shelf Life	Distinct skin colour change, aroma present, crop is picked at full slip. Shelf life is 5–7 days before symptoms of spoilage.
ESL	Extended Shelf Life	Some skin colour change, some aroma, can be cut at harvest of picked at force slip. Shelf life is approximately 17–21 days.
LSL	Long Shelf Life	Some skin colour change, no aroma, harvested cut, shelf life is in excess of 4 weeks.

Contacts

For more information visit www.seminis.com.au or contact your local representative

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