

Whereas beefsteak tomatoes are the standard in a large part of the world, other markets focus on very different types. Rijk Zwaan has always been strong in the breadth of its segments and confirms this by expanding the beefsteak tomato range in recent years. This has resulted in Taymyr RZ: a reliable new variety with a lot of potential.



# ‘Taymyr RZ, the result of specific attention to the beefsteak segment’



That Rijk Zwaan is giving more attention to the beefsteak segment is obvious from the fact that a full-time breeder has been appointed for this type. Michel Weerdenburg has now been involved with tomato breeding at Rijk Zwaan for six years, two of which have been spent as a beefsteak tomato breeder. “At Rijk Zwaan we already have a lot of past experience and genetic information regarding this segment, but the fact that I can now totally focus on it makes a big difference. In the glasshouses, more space is now allocated to this type as well.” Because of his specialisation, Michel knows exactly what criteria a variety should meet. “Especially in Canada the variety must be able to endure high temperatures. Naturally we also look out for dropped tomatoes, low susceptibility to piercing damage and an optimal balance between generativity and vigour. We are getting ever closer to reaching an optimum in that balance.”

## Mildew resistance

One example of this is Taymyr RZ, a variety that stood out in the 2011 selection trials. “It jumped out especially with its good production and good fruit setting. What is so strong about this variety is that it combines this good yield with intermediate mildew resistance. It’s truly unique in this.” For the past two years Taymyr has been trialled in various locations. In the Rijk Zwaan tomato demos, as well as in small trials in commercial nurseries, it continues to show its quality. “A Taymyr crop is remarkably generative; the crop is open, looks neat and tidy and virtually always gives trusses of 4 fruits. Not only that, the quality of the fruits is also high: beautifully round, nice and firm with an average weight of 270 g.”

The variety is not only grown in North America, but also in Eastern Europe - the other large growing area for beefsteak tomatoes. The variety has already undergone rigorous tests with high temperatures in both areas, which it passed successfully. “The variety copes extremely well with hot periods. It is advisable though, to use braces so that it retains its high fruit weight. Because of its generative character, the crop also does best with a robust growing method

## Reliable

During the trials, Taymyr shows that it has all the qualities to develop into a reliable standard variety: it meets all the specifications, and the production throughout the season is equal to that of the current standard varieties, without any signs of there being any low periods. Rijk Zwaan remains active breadth wise as well. Apart from the mainstream varieties, they continue searching for possibilities that allow growers to distinguish themselves. “That is also typical for our nursery,” Michel says. “It shows in the broad range of vegetables Rijk Zwaan offers, but also in the wide choice of varieties within a segment. There’s something for everyone. That is what we are aiming for and what you can now also see in the beefsteak range.” (See panels)

“We have really only just started and I would urge growers to do trials with our new varieties. They are best assessed in a practical setting and, what’s more, it provides us with valuable new information to enable us to develop even better beefsteak tomatoes in the future!” □

### 72-626 RZ

#### Smaller and flavourful with excellent yield

Rijk Zwaan has a reputation to uphold when it comes to slightly smaller, flavourful beefsteak tomatoes. 72-626 RZ is an excellent example of this. In the Rijk Zwaan demos this variety is spontaneously picked out, time and time again, for its good flavour. Not only do the fruits have a good Brix value, the texture and pleasant aftertaste are also mentioned as positive characteristics. The average fruit weight is 240-250 g and the tomatoes have a slightly oblate shape. Another benefit to 72-626 is the rarity of dropped tomatoes.

### 72-628 RZ

#### Top-production variety with an authentic look

A lot of growers are on the look-out for ‘something different, something new’; heirloom-style types enable nurseries to stand out from the crowd in the marketplace. Well, 72-628 RZ is such a variety. This flattened, ribbed type caught the eye in the selection glasshouses not only with its looks, but certainly with its high production. All season long, the average fruit weight was consistently more than 300 g. Moreover, in the demo in Canada it turned out that the variety is easy enough to grow. The slightly wilder crop type, which goes with this type of fruit, is sufficiently uniform