

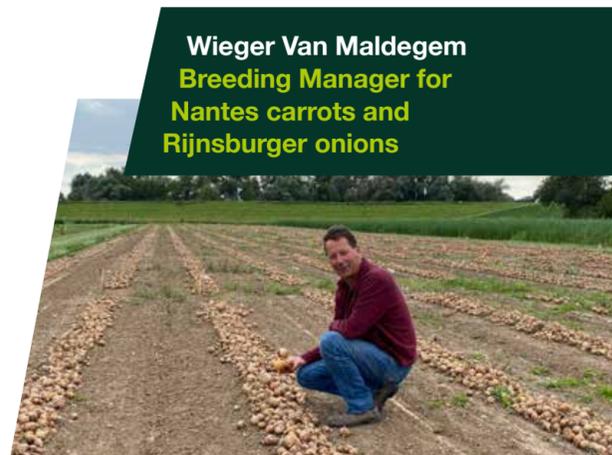
Breeding means looking into the future

Wieger van Maldegem is one of our 4 onion breeders, he works at our Wageningen site in the Netherlands.

Seminis has been active in onion breeding for many years. A total of four breeders are working on the development of onion hybrids for all lengths of the day. The breeding programs for short, medium and long day lengths are based in the USA. The breeding program for Rijnsburger varieties is located in Wageningen in the Netherlands and is led by Wieger van Maldegem. Wieger's work focuses mainly on real Rijnsburger onions, but he also develops intermediary types. The breeding goals of our Rijnsburger program are traditional: yield, skin quality, strength and storage.

The first crosses and smaller seed productions take place in our greenhouses in Wageningen. The resulting hybrids are then, with the support of professional producers, grown in important onion-growing areas by our testing team. Due to the consistent selection of these traits we introduced hybrids such as Shakito, SV3557ND, Packito, Rockito and Bossito. These varieties all have a great combination of yield potential, skin strength and bulb quality. With Barito, Seminis has been supplying the earliest Rijnsburger variety on the market for over 30 years. This early Rijnsburger segment has now seen the introduction of SV3557ND and after several years of commercial production it has proved itself across North West Europe. SV3557ND combines a similar early maturity as Barito with improved skin quality and shelf life.

In addition to the traditional breeding objectives, we are focussing on resistance to a wide variety of pathogens. For example, plant protection products are becoming very limited and there is increased incidence of soil diseases. Therefore, selection of varieties with improved resistance to Fusarium and Pink Root Rot is of vital importance in our breeding program. Hybrids that do not reach a certain level of tolerance to these diseases are dropped even before the first field tests take place. Varieties such as Pocono, Minnesota, Saddleback, Sacramento and Tucannon are all hybrids that emerged from this program and prove to be particularly resistant to Fusarium and/or Pink Root Rot. These varieties are becoming particularly popular in Germany and Poland. Downy Mildew, Botrytis and Stemphylium are common leaf diseases and therefore also receive special attention in the selection by the breeding team. Improved tolerance to such leaf diseases can



mean it is possible to target experiments to look at topics such as reduced use of fungicides. Here we use amongst other things, the expertise of our crop protection colleagues from Bayer CropScience.

In addition to yield potential and the tolerance to pathogens - shelf life for us is one of the most important quality features. Varieties with outstanding storage properties are determined by means of special test procedures to determine skin quality and compressive strength as well as germ dormancy of the onion. In this way, we ensure that our varieties, even without the use of germ inhibitors, can be stored safely and for a long time. The current portfolio is the result of our forward thinking breeders and our varieties combine all the characteristics that are necessary for successful onion production.

However, Wieger's gaze is also looking to the future. He is already working on varieties which could be the answer to future challenges for European growers.

We are curious to see what the future holds!



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**SUMMER
EARLY MATURING**



Barito

Our earliest storage variety in the Rijnsburger/American type

- // Early Rijnsburger/American onion with high yield potential
- // Rapid maturing and good skin retention
- // Flexible, as suitable both for early marketing and for storage into the winter months
- // Characterised by extremely high reliability over the years
- // Very strong leaf health



Shakito (SVND0363)

Very early Rijnsburger: Quality from the field and from storage

- // Rapid maturing combined with high yield potential and excellent skin retention
- // Flexible use: Marketed from the field or for medium term storage
- // Thin neck and very firm bulbs

**SUMMER
MEDIUM-EARLY MATURING WITH LONG STORAGE**



SV3557ND

A fast maturing Rijnsburger with good storage

- // Vigorous variety from early season drilling especially on lighter soils
- // Early to medium-early Rijnsburger onion with long storage life
- // Firm onion with attractive light brown colour and a high yield potential
- // Very good skin retention
- // Good tolerance against sprouting
- // High percentage of single centres



RS 07751481

An attractive onion variety in the early Rijnsburger segment with option of very long storage

- // Medium-early Rijnsburger onion
- // High uniformity, combined with a good neck closure
- // Very firm onion, particularly suited to long storage as a result of late sprouting
- // Good leaf health



Packito (SV8528ND)

A medium-early onion with excellent quality for long storage

- // Good root vigour and vigorous, healthy foliage
- // High and stable yield potential from the field and after storage
- // Our best storage onion with respect to shape and colour
- // Stands out in storage through high yield, outstanding skin firmness and very firm bulbs

**SUMMER
MEDIUM-LATE MATURING WITH LONGEST STORAGE LIFE**



Rockito (SV3700ND)

Longest storage life owing to outstanding skin firmness and very high resistance to pressure in the onion

- // New, innovative Rijnsburger in the medium-late range
- // Uniform, high quality bulbs due to vigorous rooting system
- // High sprouting tolerance
- // Good resistance to pressure throughout storage



Bossito (SV1332ND)

Later maturing onion with very good skin quality, bulb firmness and sprouting tolerance

- // Suitable for the longest storage due to excellent bulb firmness and high quality skin
- // High percentage of good onions after storage
- // Very uniform round shape
- // Strong sprouting tolerance

Onion range (sorted by type and maturing)					
Variety	Type	Colour	Maturity	Firmness	Storage
Dried onions, summer, North-West Europe type					
Barito	Rijnsburger/American	light brown	early	good	good
Shakito (SVND0363)	Rijnsburger	bronze	early	very good	very good
SV3557ND	Rijnsburger	light-brown	medium-early	very good	very good
RS 07751481	Rijnsburger	brown	medium-early	very good	very good
Packito (SV8528ND)	Rijnsburger	bronze	medium-early	very good	very good
Rockito (SV3700ND)	Rijnsburger	brown	medium-late	very good	very good
Bossito (SV1332ND)	Rijnsburger	brown	medium-late	very good	very good