

SADDLEBACK
SWEDE

CROPMARK
SEEDS

GROWING CLOSER

SADDLEBACK

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Saddleback is a New Zealand bred swede that was selected to be robust and reliable across a range of environments and seasons. Saddleback produces a strong leaf canopy and solid, uniform bulbs that are consistently high yielding. Saddleback bulbs are yellow fleshed and of low dry matter that hold quality well through the winter months, allowing grazing flexibility throughout the season. Adaptable to different growing conditions, Saddleback offers the flexibility needed for effective winter grazing and consistent feed supply.

“This flexibility and simplicity are attributes that CHT Seeds has emphasised in breeding new brassica varieties. Seasons change, situations change and having varieties that are adaptable, flexible and robust is critical in all farming systems. The adaptability of Saddleback means a farmer can confidently select one swede that is fit for purpose in many different situations” - CHT plant breeder.



PERFORMING UNDER PRESSURE

Agronomic traits

- Bulb flesh colour: Yellow
- Winter hardiness: Very high
- Disease tolerance: Very good
- Necking: Low

Animal safety

Recommended for:



Dairy



Beef



Sheep



Deer

Sowing information

- Precision planting: 90,000 - 100,000 seeds/ha
- Direct drilling: 1kg/ha
- Roller drilling: 0.5-1kg/ha
- Sowing depth: 1-2cm
- Sowing season: October to December

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RELIABLE YIELDS UNDER PRESSURE

Our aim was to breed a swede variety that performs well under high disease pressure in both Southland and Canterbury without compromising on yield.

Saddleback has now proved its superior performance over multiple sites and sowing years, to have strong tolerance to a range of both leaf and bulb diseases.



Variety	Swede disease	
	Gore 22/23 Disease score 1-9 1= no disease	Gore 23/24 % diseased rotten bulbs
Saddleback	1.5	6.9 a
Hawkestone	3.0	29 b
Clutha Gold	3.0	26 b
Triumph	3.5	50 c
Mean	2.4	15
Significance	NS	***
LSD		16.4

Disease scores above of Saddleback compared with commercial varieties for two seasons sown November 2022 and 2023 at Waimumu, Gore. For both seasons trials were conducted in second year swede paddocks.

Variety	Winter yield (t DM/ha) at Gore and Methven		
	Gore	Methven	Average
Clutha Gold	8.5	12.7 a	10.6
Saddleback	8.6	12.0 a	10.3
Triumph	8.9	9.3 b	9.1
Mean	9.3	11.1	10.2
Significance	NS	***	
CV%	13.6	12.3	
LSD		1.9	

Sown into second year swede paddocks. Gore trial sown December 2022, harvested May 2023. Methven trial sown November 2022, harvested June 2023. Gore trial 2nd year. Methven 1st year.



Left hand image shows Saddleback (right) showing excellent bulb shape and no early season club root disease compared with a competitor variety (left) at a Waimumu, Southland trial sown December 2022 in a second year swede paddock.

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GROWING GUIDE

Swedes have a significantly lower sowing rate compared with other brassicas, therefore ensuring that swede paddocks are correctly drilled is one of the most critical factors required to achieve a successful swede crop. The soil needs to have good tilth to ensure the seed has good soil to seed contact for rapid germination and establishment.

The optimum sowing time of Saddleback is mid-November through to mid-December. Having well established and healthy plants enables Saddleback to be more resilient to any stresses that may impact it later during the growing season.



SADDLEBACK SOWING METHODS AND RATES:

- › Precision planting: 90,000 - 100,000 seeds/ha
- › Direct drilling: 1kg/ha
- › Roller drilling: 0.5 - 1kg/ha

PRE-GRAZING



Saddleback (right) showing excellent leaf retention against a combination of powdery mildew and beet western yellow virus (BWYV) compared with a competitor variety (left) at a Waimumu, Southland strip-trial during Winter 2023.

DURING GRAZING



Grazing preference of Saddleback (left) at Waimumu 2023 as a result of superior disease resistance and low bulb dry matter compared with a competitor variety (right).