

# grower solutions

## capsicum update



January 2006

## Grower Profile

*John & Karen Wainwright - Carnarvon, W.A.*

**J**ohn Wainwright was born and bred in Carnarvon. He has been on the plantation since 1978. John and Karen manage their plantation with the help of daughter Renee and her husband Laurie.

Over the years they have grown bananas, capsicums, pumpkin, watermelon and rockmelon. In 1999 they started investigating growing in shade houses, which was a full time job on its own.

Deciding on the type of structure, the percentage shade, the colour and quality of the shade and the effect of the shade on the plants growth were all investigated.

In 2000 they erected their first shade house of 0,5ha and started growing capsicums on trellises. They had trialled **Grandissimo** the previous season and selected it as the variety to go with, based on the quality and the blocky shape which the market was requesting.

They have continued to use it exclusively, as they are very happy with the yield and quality of the fruit as well as the plant itself. They transplant in February, start harvesting in May and continue harvesting until Christmas.

They average 380g fruit at the top of the plant and only supply red capsicums. They are the major supplier of capsicums to FAL (soon to be Metcash) in West Australia during their harvest season.

FAL supply Action and Dewsons stores. John and Karen have expanded their shade houses to 2ha under capsicum and 2ha under table grapes. They also grow 2ha of rockmelon.

*cont. overleaf*



*Karen & John Wainwright*

## Grandissimo



The quality of their capsicums this winter has been second to none and they are very happy with their productivity.

They are the first to admit that they have had to overcome many obstacles and learn many lessons over the past five years. One of the tools that has helped them has been the computerised fertigation system.

They use an Alga Shanny controller which allows them to control water and nutrients precisely. Water and nutrients are supplied 4 times in every 24 hour cycle and changed according to plant growth stage.

John and Karen have devised their own trellising system, dubbed "the Wainright trellising system" by a visiting consultant. It is not cheap, but is easy to erect and work with. More importantly it supports the plants very well.

The Wainwrights are definitely among the leading capsicum producers in Western Australia and can be proud of their achievements. When asked what he thought was the key to his success, John replied "dedication, don't let anything beat you".

## North Queensland update

by: Wayne Hoey - 0418 794 574

**Eshet** has been trialled extensively in the capsicum market this season with astonishing results in all trials. It has proven to be a very robust contender in the market exhibiting excellent quality, colour, size, shape and uniformity. Some growers have voiced concern over the height of the plant but **Eshet** has a sturdy plant and is surprisingly tolerant to lodging. The semi open nature of the plant allows fruit to be sun hardened and leading to minimal sunburn. The fruit are easy to pick with the longer internodes allowing each fruit to set and develop fully. **Eshet** is highly recommended for early and late planting in North Queensland although in the cool slot fruit can be slightly tapered. This variety does not have resistance to BLS so periods of high disease pressure should be avoided.

**El Charro** on the other hand is best suited for the cooler slot with its more long blocky style of fruit which compacts to a large blocky under cool conditions. It has performed extremely well for yield and quality particularly in the Gumlu area over the past season.

The blocky yellow variety, **Paz**, showed some variable performance this season which showed major temperature variations. Overall yields were high and the fruit were neat and blocky shaped although a little small under cool conditions.

Out of 34 new varieties screened this season there are 4 that look extremely promising and will be advanced to the next level of trials in 2006.

Paz



Eshet

# Update from W.A.

by: Allan Mackinley - 0407 987 167

Supply through the winter, from Carnarvon, has been short, with good demand and good prices. Rain and cool weather were the cause of lower than expected yields, but the result for most growers has been positive.

Spring in Perth has been cool, with frost in mid-October in some areas. Minimum temperatures have been below 6°C well into September, with frequent rain coming in short showers. This has resulted in a high incidence of Western Flower Thrip, causing losses to TSWV in susceptible varieties.



Lord King

**Grandissimo** has performed well in Carnarvon, with good yields and excellent quality fruit. In my opinion it has been the best performing variety through the winter. Transplanted from February it is harvested from May until Christmas still producing good sized fruit of top quality to the top. The plants are trellised to a height of about 2 metres, and grown in shade houses.



Rioja

**Grandissimo** has been used in Carnarvon for 4 years and is still a top performer.

**Rioja** is a newly released Lamuyo type capsicum with resistance to TSWV. It performed well in trials last summer and autumn. It has a tall bush and is best suited to production systems with support. The fruit are 12-14cm by 6cm, with a bright red colour. The fruit are firm with walls 6mm thick and weigh about 200g.

**Lord King** is an exciting newly released blocky capsicum with TSWV and PMMV resistance. It has a short fairly compact plant which sets a lot of fruit.

The fruit are 8-10cm in length and 6-7cm in diameter with 3-4 cells. The fruit colour to a bright red fairly quickly, are very firm with 6mm thick walls.

**Helix** has performed well as a green capsicum with high yields in both summer and winter. Its compact plant style and heavy, large blocky fruit make it a profitable variety choice for growers.

A new range of TSWV resistant varieties are on trial this summer with several growers.

## Northern Victoria UPDATE

**El Charro** has proven to be a sought-after quality capsicum from Mildura, Swan Hill to North East Victoria. This area requires a quality  $\frac{3}{4}$  blocky green-red capsicum, for their very competitive fresh market. **El Charro** suits this market perfectly. It has proven to perform outstandingly well, with its longer harvestable yield, larger fruit, and outstanding red colour.

Feedback from market agents has continued to be favourable. **Helix** is another large, blocky, green to red capsicum that has done well in the area.

**Helix** has a fire-engine colour red, which catches the eye. **Helix** is a high yielding, 4-lobed variety and interest continues to increase.

by: Ruth Wladowski - 0417 565 184

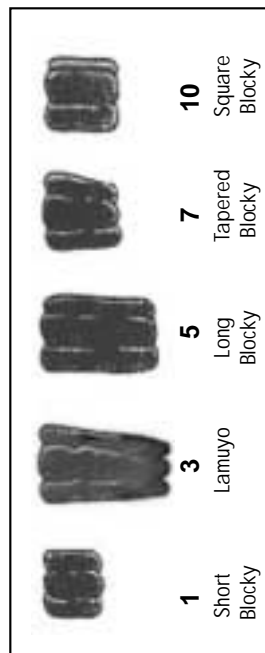


El Charro

# Capsicum Comparative Chart

	FRUIT							DISEASE PROFILES							COMMENTS	
	Flt/ty	Maturity	Size	Shape	cm.	Plants	TSWV	TMV	TMV	TMV	PVY	Xc				
								L3	L4		1	2	3	5		
Eshel	outdoor	mid-late	medium	7	9x9	med-tall			HR							Hard fruit, very good red.
El Charro	outdoor	mid-late	medium	5	11 x 9	med-tall		HR								Long blocky fruit, good size under cool
Grandissimo	outdoor	mid	medium	10	8.5 x 8.5	tall						R	R	R		For trellis production; easy pick, extended harvest.
Helix	outdoor	early	medium	10	10 x 10	compact						HR	HR	HR		High temperature production, heavy, blocky.
Maocabi	out/in door	late	large	3	17 x 9	tall		HR								Very good red.
Rubix	outdoor	late	medium	10	11 x 9.5	compact						HR	HR	HR		Best Xc resistance.
Rubi	outdoor	mid	large	3	14 x 8	tall		HR				HR	HR	HR		For trellis production with TSWV resistance.
Lord King	outdoor	early	medium	10	10 x 8	med-compact		HR								Good disease package, thick walled
Paz	out/in door	early	medium	10	8 x 8	med-tall			HR			HR	HR	HR		Tall plant but high yield, uniform fruit.
Lombardo	S outdoor	mid-early			11 x 1	med-compact										Thinwalled type for processing
Bull sweet	S outdoor	mid-early			20 x 5	med-compact		HR								Bullhorn type, green to red.

**S** = Sweet  
**H** = Hot  
**TMO** = Tobacco Mosaic Virus  
**L4** = Pepper Mild Mottle Virus 1,2,3  
**L3** = Pepper Mild Mosaic Virus 1,2  
**Xc** =  
**TSWV** =  
 Bacterial Leaf Spot (races)  
 Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus



**Disclaimer:** Lefroy Valley carries out stringent trialing throughout Australia/New Zealand prior to releasing varieties into the market place. We strongly recommend that all varieties be trialed under your growing conditions prior to commercial sowings taking place. For details of up to date trial results in your area please contact Lefroy Valley. Above information is valid 12 months from publication date. All cultural and descriptive information is supplied in good faith, as a guide only. Varietal performance is influenced by many variables, namely climatic, soil conditions, cultural and management practices. No liability will be accepted by Lefroy Valley or its representatives as to final performance based on this information.



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