



RED SQUASH

The hot peppers belonging to the Red Squash variety that we grow come from the private collection of a friend who is a member of the Hot Pepper Academy: the seeds are planted and grown in the greenhouse belonging to the Carmazzi Estate in Versilia. We receive the plants within the first half of May, when they're about 15 centimeters tall. The soil is prepared during the winter by ploughing, hoeing, leveling: in April, a new hoeing cycle takes place and the earth is enriched with biological fertilizer. In May the plants are put in the field in 70/80 centimeter-long rows and each plant is about 50 centimeters away from the next. The rows are watered thanks to drop by drop irrigation. The plants grow very large (almost half a meter in height and in width, sometimes more) and their foliage becomes luxuriant. The fruits are orange-colored tending to full red. Blossoming starts in July and the berries start ripening towards mid September. In 2007 the plants kept bearing their fruits until the end of December, even if the last plants that were able to bring the hot peppers to complete maturation were those ones growing at the end of November/beginning of December.

CHARACTERISTICS

Red Squash hot peppers are more or less regularly bell-shaped. Their measure varies from 2/3 to 9/10 centimeters in length. Once they've been picked, the fruits are very pretty and decorative, strongly resembling a flower. Harvest is a bit painstaking, because these hot peppers ripen starting from the base of the plant, which is hidden by the foliage. Notwithstanding the winds of the Valley, these plants tend to collect too much humidity, so we think we'll thin out the foliage in 2008. Red Squash hot peppers are hardly spicy at all, are fruity and have a very rich smell. Fresh slices are wonderful in salads or when munched together with some good "pecorino" (sheep milk cheese). Red Squash powder adds unique tastes and smells to our Vizio del Lupo (Wolf's Vice) During the first year, in 2007, we thought we'd put the plants in the field in June, since we were concerned about abrupt temperature changes. In reality, our climate is extremely mild, except for the strong southern winds that descend on us once in a while. In order to obtain a larger quantity of fruits, in 2008 we'll put the plants in the field earlier, around mid-May, because of last year's experience.

PRICES

One jar: mix, 5 euros, pure, 6 euros- One 5 jar package (including all three varieties): 20 euros