Montcalm Dark Red Kidney

Genetic Information

Montcalm is a new dark red kidney bean variety from Michigan State University in 1974. Montcalm was introduced for its genetic tolerance to halo blight. It originated from crosses of Michigan kidney types and three halo blight-tolerant light red kidney beans.

Montcalm carries the Co-1 gene for resistance to races 65, 73, and 89 of anthracnose. In Michigan's recent years (1994 to present) anthracnose races 65, 73, and 7 have been identified. Race 7 was found in one county and in one year. Races 65 and 73 are the more prevalent anthracnose races of which Montcalm is resistant.

Montcalm carries the single dominant hypersensitive I gene resistance to bean common mosaic virus (BCMV). Montcalm is tolerant to the rust races prevalent in Michigan. It has also shown field tolerance to rust. Montcalm has shown some susceptibility to angular leaf spot, root rot, white mold, and common blight typically found in many bean types.

Montcalm has been reselected since its release to assure that it is true to the qualities which have made this variety successful.

Agronomic Information

Over the years Montcalm has proven itself as the industry standard for both production and canning quality. It has become a very popular dark red kidney bean variety in Michigan.

Montcalm is a full season bush type variety maturing in 95 -105 days. It has white flowers, and good lodging resistance. Although no genetic resistance is known for common blight, some slightly better field performance has been seen in Montcalm fields.

Montcalm has proven to be a very good fit for Northern Michigan seed producers. The combination of good isolation, suitable growing season, and ideal harvest moisture (16 to 21%) result in seed that has good visual appearance, high germination, and high seedling vigor. Northern Michigan has also proven itself over the years to have a lower incidence of diseases common in dry edible beans. The result is consistent high quality seed.

Marketing Information

Montcalm dark red kidney is the canning industry benchmark for quality. It has a seed size of 850 seeds per pound and excellent seed type with good canning characteristics and salad quality.

Michigan takes serious steps to assure that Michigan Certified seed is free from seed borne diseases. Certified seed must pass both field and lab standards for genetic off-type and diseases found to be seed transmitted. Small amounts of Common blight will be isolated in the field. Fields with large areas of common blight or any areas of anthracnose will not be saved for seed. After harvest, all certified seed is lab tested for the presence of seed borne diseases. Testing is not performed on varieties with genetic resistance to all known races of a disease.

For more information or a list of producers, please contact your local seed dealer or the MCIA office at:

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