



## CRIMSON STAR F1

Sakata Vegetables – Red Grape Tomato

### ABSTRACT

This document is intended for commercial fruit production of Crimson Star (Hybrid) in long cycle production for heated greenhouse environments. This document will briefly outline the given variables & challenges that are critical to the variety's success.

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# CRIMSON STAR F1

**Disease Resistance:** HR: Fol: 1 / Pf (Ff): A-E / ToMV: 0, 1 \\ IR: Mi<sup>+</sup>

## Plant Habit

- Fast maturing fruits, very early in production; also increased cluster formation can encourage greater production throughout the season.
- Excellent yield potential due to increased setting ability of multi-splitting clusters.
- Vigorous plant prior to grafting (use medium to high vigor rootstock) – side shoots have good strength when increasing head density (less fragile for crop management).
- Consistent setting ability with compact, multi-splitting clusters tighten the harvest zone and will save labor costs.

## Fruit Characteristics

- Average fruit weight: 10-12g (with specified crop training).
- Shape is typical grape – Fruit can be blocky during early production stages, but will likely become smoother as the season advances (consumers will relate to typical grape shape).
- Consistent high Brix and balanced acidity produces good flavor profile throughout the season.
- Firm texture with exceptional juice content and good shelf life.
- Dark red attractive color with moderate to high gloss.
- Good fruit attachment - very low or no fruit drop.
- Recommended for single pick.

## Creating plant balance through crop training

### *Initial crop management*

- To control the plant and encourage generative behavior at the beginning of the cycle, place the plant on the substrate slab when the first cluster is flowering.
- Cluster Management: Training the first four clusters when the light levels are low has the most significant impact to a successful crop. The plant will try to support 2 – 4 splits per truss during early flowering stages. Initially, the plant is not able to support maximum yield potential, opposite from what the plant behavior demonstrates. Then, the 3rd cluster beneath the newest flowering cluster needs to be pruned to only 2 (max 3) branches (or, train labor to aggressively prune cluster ends).
  - Limiting fruit load is key at this stage to allow plant development and to achieve the target 10g fruit size. If crop management is initiated at the beginning of the crop cycle, harvesting will be much more efficient (the harvest zone will be tighter due to proper crop training, also increased average fruit weight). This strategic method of crop steering needs to continue through the entire season.
  - If the above steps are not followed, possible effects could be missing fruit set, small fruit size during the main season, or flower abortion.
- Plant Management: To steer toward generative behavior, a new leaf should be pinched from the top of the plant each week until the end of March and from the first week of August. If the plant falls out of balance (vegetative), continue pinching a new leaf each week.
  - The head density should be increased to 4.5 heads/m<sup>2</sup> but not further, otherwise the canopy can become overcrowded. Additionally, the head density should be increased to the final density before the end of March. Extra shoots should be kept 2 - 3 weeks later than more generative varieties.

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