

New Biofortified Pomegranate Variety ‘SOLAPUR LAL’

The new hybrid ‘Solapur Lal’ {Bhagawa x [(Ganesh x Nana)xDaru]} is a promising biofortified variety of pomegranate. It was released in 2017 at ICAR-NRC on Pomegranate, Solapur. It has very high iron, zinc, Vitamin-C, and anthocyanin contents in the edible parts. It is a boon to combat nutritional deficiencies in human. It is also a high yielder and early maturing variety. Apart from being nutritionally rich, the TSS of this variety at maturity is above 17°Brix, which gives additional advantage for being a promising processing variety. Being nutritionally rich with TSS above 17, it is expected to have export demand also. It is also observed that in 2020 even during continuous rainy days flower drop was less and good fruit set was there. Similar to Cv., Bhagawa, new variety Solapur Lal is also susceptible to bacterial blight.

The most important characters of ‘Solapur Lal’ are given below.

Characteristics of pomegranate variety Solapur Lal	
Characters	Solapur Lal
Tree height (m)	2.0-2.3*
Fruit maturity (days)	160-165*
Fruit weight (g)	260-270g
No. of fruits (no/ tree)	130-140*
Yield 6 th year onwards (ton/ha)	26-27*
Fruit colour	Uniform Red*
Rind thickness (mm)	Medium (3.3-3.5)
Hundred aril weight (g)	40-41*
Aril colour	Deep Red*
Seed texture	Medium**
Juice percentage (ml/100g)	40-41
TSS (degree Brix)	17.2-17.6*
Vitamin-C	19.0-19.4*
Anthocyanin (mg/100g)	390-395*
Iron (mg/100g)	1.45-1.55*
Zinc (mg/100g)	0.23-0.27*
Susceptibility to bacterial blight and other diseases	Like Bhagawa
Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characters marked with single asterisk (*) are superior and character marked with double asterisk (**) inferior to cv.’Bhagawa’ • The above characters are based on physiologically mature trees of more than 6 year age, at Solapur conditions in rainy season crop, changes may be observed under different locations, climatic conditions, crop season and management practices 	

Being a new variety released recently and evaluated under Solapur conditions, it is advisable to go for planting initially in small area to assess its actual performance under farmers’ field conditions in different agroclimatic regions.

Further, it may be noted that we have only provided limited period licensing of 3 years duration to M/s. HU Gogle Agrobiotech, Jamkhed, Ahmednagar Dist., M/s. Mohite Farm, Kati, Indapur Tk, Pune Dist. KVK, Baramati Tk, Pune Dist.; Mr. Sakaram Kathode, Ganora, Akole, Ahmednagar Dist., M/s. Bawake Patil Nursery, Sakure, Rahata Tk, Ahmednagar Dist., M/s. Smart Crop Nursery, Aurangabad Tk & Dist, with the

condition that they should first obtain Nursery Certificate from the State Government for 'Solapur Lal' before distribution of healthy saplings.

So, all farmers are requested to ensure the valid nursery certificate issued by State Government for 'Solapur Lal' from the concerned firm before procuring. No other source is permitted to sell these plants as the variety is under provisional protection under PPV & FRA, New Delhi. Farmers are requested to be vigilant as ICAR-NRCP will not be responsible for procurement of planting material from firms without Nursery License.



Mother Plant at ICAR-NRCP, Solapur



In Farmer's Orchard 2 months before harvest



Bearing in Farmers plot



Deep Red Fruit at Maturity



Deep Red Arils at Maturity

Biofortified Pomegranate Variety 'Solapur Lal'