

## ReinSaat® variety development:

## REIN® SAAT New breeding Stem chard Jessica



A few strongly divergent plant types of a very large plant stock of a producer located near Linz which grows vegetables for wholesalers formed the basis for the new breeding of the stem chard Jessica. This was the foundation for cooperation between the vegetable farmer Fred Holzer, Reinhild Frech-Emmelmann and Heinz Wagner (participative plant breeding) which constantly focussed on an intense professional exchange and the further development of promising plant types.

The objective was to develop a compact stem chard for a single harvest or the harvest as an entire plant with a uniform plant weight and a high bolt resistance. The challenge was to develop a variety of high quality with a white stem and firm dark green leaves. Particular emphasis was furthermore placed on the plant health and a low susceptibility to *Alternaria* infestation.

However, since there is an enormous variability between the different types chard, an annual selection is effected out of large stocks in order to ensure the desired properties. Jessica is the product of many years of selection and breeding works. This chard variety has a unique flavour and appearance, is robust (suited for mild and harsh climates) and meets all the requirements of professional vegetable cultivation which are placed on chard varieties. Jessica is mainly suited for late summer cultivation, but also for overwintering cultivation in a greenhouse.

### Fact sheet:

Growth:	upright, compact, Italian type
Plant height:	30 cm
Stem:	crunchy and firm
Stem colour:	white
Leaf colour:	dark green
Fruight weight:	700-1000 g
Taste:	balanced and fine
To be harvested:	once
Usage:	entire plant