

SOLASTE, E20B.0375 (TM 0-3) is a new sweet blocky yellow pepper from Enza Zaden. A strong generative plant with consistent fruit size with excellent colour throughout the season, Solaste also offers outstanding shelf life, and as a compact variety, can be grown in lower greenhouses.

Grower insights on sweet blocky yellow pepper Solaste (E20B.0375)



"This yellow pepper variety really wins when it comes to fruit size."

Grower Erik Splinter of 'Kwekerij Tas' from Luttelgeest, The Netherlands grows approximately 32 hectares of red and yellow peppers including 2.5 hectares of Solaste. Here are Splinter's observations after testing Solaste for the first time in 2020:



Experiences with managing the crop so far

“Solaste was grown alongside Gialte, another sweet blocky yellow pepper from Enza Zaden. We didn't notice much of a difference between the two varieties until longer days set in, the warmer days later in the season. At that point, we noted that Solaste was relatively unaffected by the warm period, sustaining only negligible damage in comparison to similar crops. Toward the end of the season, we observed that Solaste's production shot-up relative to other varieties, and Solaste's fruit weight was a lot higher. Ultimately, Solaste's larger size in the second half of the season ensured a high average price for the crop. For all these reasons, we opted for Solaste as our primary yellow pepper.”

A high production

Splinter says that he does not regret choosing Solaste.

“If you compare plant growth and yield, Solaste's early production is quite strong. We kept Solaste a bit warmer in the greenhouse, and you could see that Solaste grew easily. Since we knew Solaste performed well in the heat, we kept the crop a bit warmer. But when some darker days came, we noted Solaste's light sensitivity. While it sets easily, it then aborts some fruits, so you must be patient in the beginning. There are some fruits that will eventually set after 2-3 weeks. In week 13, when prices were high, we harvested quite a lot. As there is especially strong demand for larger fruits during warmer summers, the coming weeks will be interesting for us.”

Solaste colours easily

“While other varieties may start setting a bit earlier, Solaste colours very easily, turning from an unripe mint green to dark yellow, even in the box. I really like this easy colouring attribute, which

allowed us to harvest Solaste a lot earlier. We also noted that when you compare Solaste's final colour to Gialte or Allrounder, Solaste is a much darker, deeper yellow."



Challenges to note

As much as he likes Solaste, Splinter is honest about what disappoints him:

"I occasionally notice some internal rot in Solaste. Between the sets there can sometimes be a wave of external signs of inner rot spots on the fruit wall. As much as we don't like to discover inner rot, with Solaste, visible signs on the skin quicken the process of grading and selecting-out the affected fruit."

"During a year of inner rot issues throughout the Netherlands, I sometimes see the rot in the cutting tests of other varieties, and then find Solaste completely clean again."

"I think there is still some room for improvement in the area of watering at this point. In the greenhouse where Solaste is located, we steer toward the other variety. I have two good measuring boxes, but they are not with Solaste. I have the impression that this variety can be a bit higher in slab EC and drip EC, then I can target it specifically."

Finally, Splinter notes that "while Gialte remains firm after packing, Solaste loses some firmness after a day or two, but certainly not at a disturbing level."

Wrapping up

"When I consider everything, I am very enthusiastic about Solaste. So far, this variety really wins on fruit size. It sets easily and quickly, the plant is nice and full, it has a nice colour, and it maintains growth all season. From set three, I haven't seen anything more in terms of fruit abortion. For the next six weeks it will be very important that Solaste continues to maintain size, and I am very confident of that. Where other varieties are at 182 grams, Solaste is now at 206 grams."

Interested in sweet blocky yellow pepper Solaste?

Solaste is available from Enza Zaden through the direct sales representative for your region:

Arden Nywening Regional Manager, Greenhouse, Eastern Canada a.nywening@enzazaden.com 226-688-8353	Lee Parsons Senior Sales Manager, Greenhouse, Western Canada l.parsons@enzazaden.com 604-376-4989
---	--

