

PRODUCT DATA SHEET

Proso millet

Botanical name	Panicum ssp.
Seeding rate	15-19 kg/ha (at least 250-300 seeds/m ²) for stand density between 180 and 250 plants m ²
Distance between rows	12-25 cm; larger distances in some trials
Sowing period	At soil temperature of at least 11 °C, mostly around two to three weeks later than maize
Sowing depth	Similar to cereals (approx. 2 cm)
Sowing method	Cereal seed drill (every alternate row)



Botany

- Family: Poaceae (grasses)
- Other common names: common millet, broomcorn millet
- Cultivated crop (C4 crop) originally from the Mediterranean and southern countries (Asia)
- Remains one of the most important cereal crops for human consumption in Africa and Asia
- Able to form tillers
- Medium growth height
- Compact, drooping panicles
- Mostly yellow grain (similar to mustard seeds) tightly packed on the panicle
- Not to be confused with the large-grained sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*)

Climate requirements

- Needs high temperature (lower than sorghum but higher than maize)
- Soil temperature should be at least 11 °C; yield losses are to be expected if sown too early
- Exhibits very good drought resistance despite a shallow root system, comparatively low water requirements similar to buckwheat (approx. 300 L/ha)

Soil requirements

- Lower demands in terms of soil quality
- Does well in sandy humus-rich soils that warm up easily
- Requires level, fine and crumbly seedbed for uniform shoot emergence and good stand development; a stale seedbed technique may be used to encourage germination of seed-borne weeds
- Soil preparation similar to maize and sugar beet

Crop rotation

- Not too demanding on the preceding crop
- Currently believed to be autotolerant
- Possibility: resowing by early June after damage by hail or capping in May

Crop protection

- Should be planted only on fields with low weed pressure (unable to withstand competition in early development stage)
- Mechanical weed control using harrows is not recommended before the five- to six-leaf stage is reached
- Since only small areas have been cultivated so far, no noteworthy incidence of pest infestation has been reported
- Measures against damage by birds may be required

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Fertilisation

- 60-80 kg N (single application is recommended except on highly erosion-prone soils)
- 50-60 kg P₂O₅
- 80-100 kg K₂O

Harvest, treatment, processing and utilisation

- Ready for threshing around 100 to 120 days after sowing
- Harvest window usually after wheat and field beans
- Yield level: 2,500-3,000 kg/ha
- Risk of high threshing losses due to grain spillage (may therefore be better to thresh while the grains are a little moist rather than too dry)
- Main yield components: number of grains/panicles
- Grains need to be hulled for further processing
- Harvested crop is gluten-free and rich in vitamins, minerals and silicic acid
- Can be milled and is excellent in mixed flours, though it cannot be baked on its own
- Energy content is comparable to that of barley, while fat content is similar to oats
- Good protein digestibility in high raw fibre levels



If you have questions, please feel free to contact us!

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