

# SADDLEBACK

**SADDLEBACK**  
SWEDE

Saddleback is a New Zealand bred swede that was selected to be robust and reliable across a range of environments and seasons. Saddleback produces uniform bulbs that are consistently high yielding. Saddleback bulbs are yellow fleshed and of low dry matter that hold quality well through the winter months, allowing grazing flexibility throughout the season. Adaptable to different growing conditions, Saddleback offers the flexibility needed for effective winter grazing and consistent feed supply.

"This flexibility and simplicity are attributes that CHT Seeds has emphasised in breeding new brassica varieties. Seasons change, situations change and having varieties that are adaptable, flexible and robust is critical in all farming systems. The adaptability of Saddleback means a farmer can confidently select one swede that is fit for purpose in many different situations" - CHT plant breeder.



## PERFORMING UNDER PRESSURE

### Agronomic traits

- **Bulb flesh colour:** Yellow
- **Winter hardiness:** Very high
- **Disease tolerance:** Very good
- **Necking:** Low

### Animal safety

Recommended for:



Dairy



Beef



Sheep



Deer

### Sowing information

- **Precision planting:** 90,000 - 100,000 seeds/ha
- **Direct drilling:** 1kg/ha
- **Roller drilling:** 0.5-1kg/ha
- **Sowing depth:** 1-2cm
- **Sowing season:** October to December

## RELIABLE YIELDS UNDER PRESSURE

Our aim was to breed a swede variety that performs well under high disease pressure in both Southland and Canterbury without compromising on yield.

Saddleback has now proved its superior performance over multiple sites and sowing years, to have strong tolerance to bulb diseases, particularly in Southland.



## YIELD AND DRY ROT RESISTANCE IN SWEDE CULTIVAR TRIAL (2024-2025, GORE)

Variety	Yield t DM/ha	Dry rot infection (%)
<b>SW15244 S1-C1</b>	13.6 a	19.2 d
<b>Saddleback</b>	12.6 ab	13.8 d
<b>Hawkestone</b>	10.4 ad	71.1 ab
<b>Massie</b>	10.0 bd	61.6 bc
<b>Triumph</b>	9.0 cd	82.1 ab
<b>Aspiring</b>	8.6 d	86.4 a
<b>Earnslaw</b>	8.3 d	74.0 ab
<b>Clutha Gold</b>	7.9 d	66.8 ac
<i>Mean</i>	10.7	52.1
<i>Trtsig</i>	*	***
<i>CV%</i>	19.4	26.0
<i>LSD</i>	3.5	22.9

Sown on 9/12/24 in Gore and harvested on 12/6/25, data taken from a trial that included 12 cultivars, second year brassica after kale.

Top image shows Saddleback (right) showing excellent bulb shape and no early season club root disease compared with a competitor variety (left) at a Waimumu, Southland trial sown December 2022 in a second year swede paddock.





## GROWING GUIDE

Swedes have a significantly lower sowing rate compared with other brassicas, therefore ensuring that swede paddocks are correctly drilled is one of the most critical factors required to achieve a successful swede crop. The soil needs to have good tilth to ensure the seed has good soil to seed contact for rapid germination and establishment.

The optimum sowing time of Saddleback is mid-November through to mid-December. Having well established and healthy plants enables Saddleback to be more resilient to any stresses that may impact it later during the growing season.



## SADDLEBACK SOWING METHODS AND RATES:

- **Precision planting:** 90,000 - 100,000 seeds/ha
- **Direct drilling:** 1kg/ha
- **Roller drilling:** 0.5 - 1kg/ha



Grazing preference of Saddleback (left) at Waimumu 2023 as a result of superior disease resistance and low bulb dry matter compared with a competitor variety (right).