

A New Bitter Gourd Cultivar, ‘Hualien No. 5’¹

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Abstract

The bitter gourd ‘Hualien No. 5’ is a new F1 hybrid cultivar. This novel cultivar shows traits of high growth vigor, early female flowering, high yield and good quality. The parents were domesticated from the Jian area in 1998 and 2000. A superior hybrid line, WB36, with characteristics of breeding objectives has been selected in 2002 after the combining ability test of F1 hybrids, the comparative yield test, the regional trial and the planting density trial. WB36 has obtained the plant breeders’ rights (PBR) as a new cultivar named ‘Hualien No. 5’ on July 21 of 2011. It is a monoecious vine with more branches and the female flower blooms from the 28th node of the main vine. The flowering period lasts for about 31 days in both crops of spring and summer. The fruits of ‘Hualien No. 5’ are elliptical in shape, 47.2 grams in weight, green skin with pearl and bar intrusion. It takes 15 days from the blossom stage to the harvest stage and gives a total yield of approximately 14.3 metric tons per hectare for spring crop and 14.2 metric tons for summer crop. The optimal harvest duration is 45 to 60 days and the total growth period from germination to maturity lasts for about 110 to 130 days.

Key words: bitter gourd, breeding, hybrid F1 cultivar, Hualien No. 5.

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