

New Bitter Gourd Variety ‘Hualien No.4’¹

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Summary

The bitter gourd ‘Hualien No.4’ is a new cultivar of F₁ hybrid. It is earlier female flowering and contains stronger growth vigor in traits of strong fruit setting and good quality. The original parental lines were domesticated from the Jian area in 1998. A superior inbred line, WB33, with appropriate qualities in retention to the official standard of breeding objectives has been selected during 2002 after a series of breeding tests including the combining ability test of F₁ hybrids, the comparative yield test, the regional trial and the planting density trial. On January 22, 2008, WB33 has obtained the plant breeders’ right (PBR) as a new cultivar naming Hualien No.4. It is a monoecious vine with a lot of branches and the female flower blooms from the 33rd section of the main vine. The flowering period lasts for about 35 days in spring crop and 30 days in summer crop. The fruit of Hualien No.4 has a cylindrical conidia shape and processes a green skin with pearls and bars of 20 to 50 grams in weight. It takes 12 to 15 days from the blossom stage to the harvest stage and gives a total yield of approximately 13.7 metric tons per hectare for spring crop and 18.2 metric tons for summer crop. It has an optimal harvest stage of 45 to 60 days and the total growth period from germination to maturity lasts for about 110 to 130 days.

keywords : wild bitter gourd, breeding, hybrid F₁ variety

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