

## Rijk Zwaan updates spinach line for organic segment

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Reinforcing its commitment to innovation in organic agriculture, Rijk Zwaan has unveiled an updated portfolio of spinach varieties tailored for organic growers across Europe. The latest offering combines proven performers with new introductions, each selected for their strong resistance profiles, yield stability, and superior product quality under diverse growing conditions.

As demand for reliable organic crops continues to rise, the company's enhanced range addresses a critical need among growers for varieties that can withstand evolving disease pressures and climatic variability. According to crop coordinators Wim in 't Groen and Filip Hermans, the focus is on delivering consistent performance across different growing seasons and market requirements.

Among the new additions, Galago RZ stands out as a dependable option for organic baby leaf spinach cultivation, particularly suited for winter production in southern Europe and transitional sowing periods in northern regions. Its rapid growth, visually appealing leaf structure, and comprehensive resistance package against downy mildew and emerging fungal threats position it as a robust choice for growers seeking reliability.

Reindeer RZ further strengthens the portfolio with its high resistance levels and uniform leaf quality, offering growers enhanced certainty during winter cultivation cycles. Meanwhile, Boomslang RZ delivers versatility across spring and autumn seasons, combining high yields with a broad resistance spectrum—making it well-suited for both open-field and protected cultivation systems.

For targeted seasonal applications, Cabezon RZ is recommended for early and late summer production in northern Europe, offering strong disease resistance and attractive leaf characteristics, although alternative varieties may be better suited for peak summer conditions.

Beyond fresh market production, Rijk Zwaan has also expanded its focus on spinach varieties for the processing industry, where cultivation dynamics differ significantly. With production concentrated in regions such as the Netherlands, Belgium, and France—particularly in the fertile soils of Flevoland—summer cultivation plays a pivotal role.

In this segment, Silverwhale RZ emerges as a fast-establishing variety, enabling effective weed management and ensuring reliable harvests. Its strong resistance profile and consistent leaf quality have made it a preferred choice among organic growers. Complementing this is Boa RZ, a vigorous and well-established variety known for its adaptability to heavy soils, rapid germination, and suitability for early mechanical weed control—factors that contribute to higher productivity and crop success.

With this expanded portfolio, Rijk Zwaan continues to support organic growers with solutions that balance agronomic resilience, market demands, and sustainability—strengthening its position at the forefront of innovation in vegetable breeding.