

# Beet: Feuer Kugel



## Starting & Ending Population size

Starting population size: 180 (Stable seed stock)  
300 (Poor seed stock)

Harvest population size: Roots for seed production should be harvested from a minimum of **80 plants**.

## Seedling stage

*Rogue plants:*

Low vigour (5-10% of population)  
Off-type plants



## Before roots pulled

*Select plants:*

Sturdy tops  
Green-red leaves, red veins  
Red petioles, with smooth surface



## Roots pulled

*Select roots:*

Round (see dimensions below)  
Dark red ext., light red int.  
Some white zoning (see pic)  
Taste (sweet, tender, mild)  
Storage quality



## A note about disease identification:

Cooler fall weather will often promote a blotchy reddening of the leaves that many people associate with leaf diseases or decline of the plant. Ensure you properly identify any signs of disease before roguing.

## Further Roguing & Selection Information

Seedling stage: Rogue seedlings with a lack of vigour, slow and late seedling emergence; select for early robust growth. At the early growth stage observe leaf shape, size, color, and ability of the seedlings to grow under less than optimum conditions. Remove any off-type plants that look different from the rest of the population.

Before roots are pulled: Selection should be done on the tops for height, shape, and leaf colour. Feuer Kugel beets have sturdy tops with green-red leaves with red veining. Rogue off-type plants with different leaf shapes than the rest of the population. Beet petioles can be selected for color and strength. Select Feuer Kugel beets with red petioles and a smooth root surface that is not brittle.

When roots are pulled for storage: Select round 5-7.5cm long and 4.5-6.5cm diameter roots with a dark red exterior and lighter red interior with occasional white zoning that weigh 2-4oz (see picture above). By cutting a slice of the root off of the side of the beet (a cheek) you will be able to observe the interior color with no damage to the root. This evaluation for color of the cut roots should always be done at the end of the storage cycle soon before replanting the roots as long term storage of any damaged tissue is more risky. The piece of the root that is cut off can also be used for tasting. Feuer Kugel beets are sweet and tender with a mild flavour. When replanting in the spring, discard any beets that have rotted in storage.



\*\*\*These are suggested tips and strategies for selecting a true to type Feuer Kugel beet, you are welcome to look for other characteristics that you find appealing or suit your farm, market or growing condition. Please make note of it if you do so.

