

I guess my initiation to Kings Seeds goes way back, to when Ross King started his business from his home. I can still remember clearly his huge garden with all sorts of different vegetables and flowers growing in it. This was somewhere between 30 and 40 years ago. (Not sure just how I found out about him or Kings Seeds.)

Not too long after, he shifted the business to New North Road in Avondale. He had a large garden there also, displaying all sorts of common and often weird vegetables and flowers. I visited him there every year, to check out any newcomers he had added to the catalogue.

He alluded to me as the Chilli Man as I was always growing, eating and trying to source new varieties, "well over one hundred to date." I can still remember when he showed me Habanero Chillies in his garden. I didn't have any seed for these so quickly purchased some. Habaneros at **that time** were the hottest in the world). **Well out-streaked now**, with Bhut Jolokia, and at present Carolina Reaper.

One year Ross showed me with pride, that he was a member of the "National Hot Pepper Association" in America. Of course I asked how to join it, and promptly did so. During this same visit, I showed Ross a catalogue from an American Seed Company that I had managed to source and get seeds from, Ross was a bit miffed, as he had actually visited this company whilst in the States, and had not been able to get a catalogue.

Now, I don't go only for Chillies, I love growing odd ball vegetables, coloured carrots, many different colours and stripy tomatoes which friends think are unreal. Lovely red and white striped radishes, winged beans, (or were they peas) and a lovely cucumber type vegetable, which caused a letter from MAF to be sent to me, and I guess many others, and a \$ cost to yourselves!! (They were interesting and tasty but we had to pull the plants out.)

So many varieties of seeds and flowers each year to choose from, by far the best in New Zealand. Although under new management and has been for a long time, Kings Seeds will always get my order.

I guess that is my story, for what it is worth.
Thanks for continuing on with Kings Seeds and all you do.

By Tony Tyler