

Summary of Specification



- 1. Name of the GI + transcription in Latin alphabet or in international phonetic alphabet**
津南の雪下になじん (transcription: Tsunan no Yukishita Ninjin) , Tsunan no Yukishita Ninjin
- 2. Category of the product for which the name is protected**
Class 1 : Agricultural product (Carrot)
- 3. Applicant – name and address**
Tsunan Yukishita Ninjin Association
Regional Promotion Division, Tsunan Town Office
585 Oaza-shimofunatobo, Tsunan Town, Nakauonuma County, Niigata Prefecture
949-8292, Japan
- 4. Date of first Protection in the country of origin**
June 14, 2019
- 5. Description of product**

Tsunan no Yukishita Ninjin is a carrot cultivated under deep accumulation of snow for three months or more from early winter to spring in Tsunan Town, one of the regions with the heaviest snow in Japan.

Tsunan no Yukishita Ninjin is rich in amino acids such as asparagine, a component of sweetness and umami taste, and caryophyllene, a component of flavor. Carrots have characteristics such as mild sweetness, umami taste, and good flavor.

Also, since the unique sweetness and umami taste is highly evaluated, they are traded at a high price at the market.
- 6. Description/delimitation of the Geographical Area and of specific steps in production that must take place in the identified geographic area**
 - (1) Producing area:
Tsunan Town, Nakauonuma County, Niigata Prefecture

(2) Production method:

① Cultivar

A variety having excellent resistance to low-temperature and disease is used.

② Cultivation method

Seeding takes place from late July through August to secure a sufficient level of growth before snowfall.

After snowfall, carrots are cultivated under deep accumulation of snow until around March of the following year. Snow in the fields needs to be removed before harvesting. Harvesting is done by hand and to be completed before natural snow-melting.

③ Shipment standard

Carrots without any significant damage including disease or pest damage are shipped.

7. Link with the Geographical Area

Tsunan Town is one of the regions with the heaviest snow in Japan. From January, snowfall may accumulate to three meters or more, making weather conditions suitable for cultivating Yukishita Ninjin (a carrot cultivated under snow in Japanese) .

Also, in Tsunan Town, a system to produce Yukishita Ninjin with good quality has been established by researches over the years, leading to steady production of Yukishita Ninjin every year.

The producing area with these conditions enables to produce Yukishita Ninjin having a unique sweetness, umami taste, and flavor.

8. History / confirmations of on-going production

Trial cultivation of Tsunan no Yukishita Ninjin started in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The cultivation area was 3 hectares in 1982, with the amount of production being 60 tons and the amount of sales being 6.2 million yen. However, it gradually expanded its sales channel inside and outside of the prefecture. In 2017, a total of the cultivation area is 18 hectares, with the amount of production increased to 632 tons and the amount of sales increased to 112.096 million yen.

9. Specific rules concerning labelling and using, if any

N/A

10. Control body / control authority responsible for checking the respect of the product specifications

Control body is Tsunan Yukishita Ninjin Association.

In addition, MAFF regularly monitors the condition of quality control in the process of production, through the examination of annual report submitted by Tsunan Yukishita Ninjin Association.

11. Outline of the quality control plan

Tsunan Yukishita Ninjin Association will check (1) cultivar, (2) cultivation method, (3) shipment standard and final products. If a producer fails to abide by the specification, Tsunan Yukishita Ninjin Association will issue a warning and request a correction of his/her

production. In case the producer does not follow the warning, Tsunan Yukishita Ninjin Association will prohibit the producer from using the geographical indication and the GI mark . In addition, Tsunan Yukishita Ninjin Association will prepare an annual performance report and submit it to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

12. Information of registered trademark(s) identical or similar to the GI (if applied by the GI holder in other Party's territory)

N/A