Longfellow's Greenhouses

San Marzano Tomato

Solanum lycopersicum 'San Marzano'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Group/Class: Heirloom-Indeterminate

Description:

A perfect sauce variety that produces long, blocky red fruit with small seed cavities; high yielding, perfect for large containers and gardens; well balanced flavor, ideal for sauces and pastes but also for roasting, salads and canning

Edible Qualities

San Marzano Tomato is an annual vegetable plant that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces red long tomatoes (which are technically 'berries') with red flesh which are usually ready for picking from mid summer to early fall. This is an indeterminate variety, which means it produces fruit throughout the growing season. The tomatoes have a pleasant taste and a firm texture.

The tomatoes are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Eating When Cooked/Prepared
- Cooking
- Canning
- Sauces



San Marzano Tomato fruit and flesh
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



San Marzano Tomato fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

San Marzano Tomato will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When planted in rows, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. Because of its vigorous growth habit, it may require staking or supplemental support. This fast-growing vegetable plant is an annual, which means that it will grow for one season in your garden and then die after producing a crop.

This plant can be difficult to integrate into a landscape or flower garden, and is best grown in a designated vegetable garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and it is considered by many to be an heirloom variety.

San Marzano Tomato is a good choice for the vegetable garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.