

Solanum lycopersicum L. ***Gardener's Delight***

Sugar Tomato

Culture guide

Uses:

Vegetables, pot and container plants

Exposure:

Sun

Garden height:

31" / 80 cm

Crop time:

10-12 months

Sow time:

Mid February-April for green pots

Sowing method:

2-3 seeds per plug

Germination:

7-12 days at temperatures of 70-75 °F (21-24 °C).

Cover seed lightly with vermiculite after sowing.

Growing On:

Transplant plugs after 6-7 weeks. Grow on at

62-65 °F (16-18 °C).

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 15-30 % clay, 0-15 % parts (e. g. perlite, sand), 3 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.8-6.5.

Temperature:

Grow at 17-20 °C. Lycopersicon does not tolerate temperatures below 5 °C. Therefore protect the young plants against cold night temperatures.

The plants should be hardened for early selling.

Fertilization:

High fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 300-400 ppm nitrogen, using a complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. High nitrogen levels are the cause that foliage gets large. When the flowers are visible, change the fertilizer and use a potassium balanced fertilizer (N: K₂O-ratio: 1:1,5). Take care of a good phosphate and iron supply. Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times. Calcium deficiency can be cause for necrosis on leaves, dark tips on fruits and corking tips on fruits.