

Manitoba Tomatoes (Heirloom)

Growth Habit: Determinate, compact, and bushy, reaching 36 to 48 inches in height and width. Suitable for short growing seasons and cool climates.

Best Uses: Slicing, fresh eating, sandwiches, and cooking. Known for their firm texture and sweet flavor.

Growing Information:

- Full sun
- Well-draining soil with a pH of 6.0 to 6.8
- Start seeds indoors 6 to 8 weeks before the last frost
- Transplant seedlings outdoors after hardening off
- Space plants 24 to 36 inches apart

Maintenance Information:

- Prune lower leaves to encourage fruit production and maintain plant structure
- Water consistently, providing 1 to 2 inches of water per week
- Fertilize with a balanced tomato fertilizer every 3 to 4 weeks

Pest Management:

- Monitor for common tomato pests like aphids, whiteflies, and spider mites
- Watch for signs of fungal diseases like early blight and late blight, and remove infected leaves promptly

Companion Plants:

- Good companion plants for Manitoba tomatoes include basil, marigolds, and nasturtiums, which help repel pests and promote beneficial insects.
- Avoid planting tomatoes near fennel, potatoes, or other members of the nightshade family to prevent disease and pests from spreading.