

## Tomato Production in the State of Santa Catarina

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Tomato is a perennial plant cultivated annually and very demanding in terms of climate. Therefore, it needs positive conditions, so that productivity is always superior to each crop. The most important climate is temperature and light.

The tomato consumed "in Natura" and industrial in Brazil is 20 kg per person a year. The fruit is a source of Folic acid, potassium, vitamin C and carotenoids, and lycopene (antioxidant) is the most prominent. It is also found in the fruit, in less quantity vitamins E and K and flavonoids. Its flavor is mainly conferred by the sugar levels (glucose, fructose and sucrose) and organic acids (malic and citric). The fruits are appreciated by flavor, aroma, appearance and nutritional value. And its antioxidant action, anticancer, Vitamin and mineral salts, even presenting a water content close to 93%. In addition, it contains high levels of pigments, such as chlorophyll, xanthan, beta carotene and lycopene.

The tomato produced in Santa Catarina wins the table of Brazilians throughout the country. Agricultural culture is important for the state, as it moves the economy as, for example, in the Midwest Region, where the largest planted areas are. The IBGE data estimate the area of tomato cultivation in 2,693 hectares, a production of 186,802 tonnes and average yield of 69,366 kilos per hectare, positioning the state as Sixth national producer. In the Microregions, Joaçaba owns 51.5% of the planted area and 64% of the production and the other microregions (Tabuleiro, Florianópolis and Lages fields) contribute 33% of the area and 26% of the production.

In Santa Catarina, tomato cultivation is intended for in natura consumption, or tomato table. In relation to Production, the State Advanced the Octave for the seventh position, however, in productivity it is evident the greatest Breakthrough Technological in the Culture in Santa Catarina, going from Fifth to third position. The Weather propitious in the coastal and Midwest regions allows to conduct the various stages of cultivation the Tomato for the year. All The production of culture is growing on the southern coast of

Santa Catarina, moving and increasing family farming, since the region is composed of small producers.

Many obstacles are overcome with each crop of the crop, because the tomato requires great care with fertilization, pests and diseases that hit throughout the crop cycle. Each year New Pests Co-meeting and the producer needs to use Chemical products to control and Decrease the loss in final productivity and each Time more the Society comes requiring food to be produced more healthily, reaching the table with fewer pesticides and Chemicals.

Some other difficulties are also found in the commercialization of the product, and often the value Market is not supplying production costs, demotivating producers to continue. The Price the Fruit decreases in the Marketing, However, grows the value of inputs to achieve good productivity. In this way the producer aims to increase its production, but market conditions do not always Favor.

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