

一串紅

Salvia splendens
(Scarlet Sage)



科屬及分布 Family and Distribution

一串紅（學名 *Salvia splendens*），又名西洋紅或爆竹紅，屬於唇形科（Lamiaceae）鼠尾草屬（*Salvia*），是多年生草本植物，在寒冷地區則多作一年生種植。原產於巴西，現廣泛栽種於世界各地，栽培品種豐富，多作觀賞用。

Salvia splendens, commonly known as Scarlet Sage, belongs to the genus *Salvia* in the family Lamiaceae. The plant is a herbaceous perennial, though it is usually grown as an annual herb in cold regions. Native to Brazil, Scarlet Sage is now available in a diverse range of cultivars which are widely grown as ornamentals around the world.



形態及特徵

Form and Characteristics

一串紅高30至90厘米，栽培品種有高有矮。莖直立，四棱形，光滑。葉對生，卵形，葉端漸尖，基部圓形，葉緣呈鋸齒狀。花以輪狀聚傘排列，形成長約20厘米的頂生總狀花序。鐘狀花萼與長筒形花冠顏色鮮紅，看似一串串爆竹；栽培品種花色繁多，除紅色外，還有紫、橘、粉紅、白色等，也有花萼與花冠顏色相異的雙色品種。花期由秋末至翌年春末。種子為橢圓形細小堅果，成熟時呈深棕色。

Scarlet Sage stands 30 to 90 cm in height and comes in both tall and dwarf cultivars. Its stem is upright, square and smooth. The leaves are opposite, ovate with an acuminate apex, a rounded base and serrate margins. The flowers are arranged in verticillasters, forming terminal racemes of about 20 cm long. Both the bell-shaped calyx and long tubular corolla are bright red, lending the flower clusters a resemblance to strings of firecrackers. Other than red, cultivars have been developed with purple, dark orange, pink and white flowers, as well as bi-coloured varieties with the calyx and the corolla in distinct hues. The flowering period runs from late autumn to late spring the following year. The seeds are tiny ellipsoidal nutlets that mature to a dark brown colour.





生長習性及護理 Growth Habits and Care

一串紅喜歡溫暖、陽光充沛及通風的環境，也能在半遮陰的地方生長。值得注意的是，長期光照不足會令葉片色澤變淡，甚至脫落；光照過強則會灼傷葉片，影響花色，故炎夏午間須適度遮陰。一串紅的生長適溫為15°C至30°C。若低於5°C，植株易受凍害。植料以疏鬆肥沃和排水良好的砂質土壤為佳。一串紅喜濕、不耐乾，但若以盆種，培植土壤過濕或排水不良會令植株生長欠佳，甚至根部腐爛，終致枯萎，所以應待土壤乾了才澆水。

定時摘心去頂，可促進分枝，塑造理想株型。一串紅花期可長達3個月。花謝後即應剪除，促使植株再度開花。修剪後補充適量肥料，能促進新枝萌發。生長期間養分必須充足，故應每月施肥一次，以補充肥力，令植株健康生長，有利開花。果實成熟時宿存在花萼內，輕搖會散落土中，待條件合適，種子便會長成新的植株。

Scarlet Sage prefers a warm, sunny and airy environment, but can also cope with partial shade. It should be noted, though, that insufficient sunlight in the long run can lead to discolouration or even leaf drop; light too strong, on the other hand, scorches the leaves and affects flower colour. Adequate shading is therefore important to protect the plant from the midday sun in hot summer. Scarlet Sage has an optimum growth temperature of 15°C to 30°C. Temperatures lower than 5°C can cause cold damage. Scarlet Sage thrives in loose, rich and well-drained sandy loam. While the drought-intolerant plant prefers a moist environment, it cannot tolerate soggy or waterlogged growing medium when potted. Excess moisture lead to root rot and cause the plant to wither. Therefore, water only when the soil is dry.

Scarlet Sage should be pinched regularly to induce branching and keep the plant shapely. Its flowering period can last for up to 3 months. Spent blooms should be removed promptly to encourage a second round of flowering, followed by moderate fertilising to induce new shoots. An adequate supply of nutrients is vital during the growth period, so monthly feeding is recommended to support healthy growth and flowering. Once mature, the seeds remain in the calyx and will fall onto the soil when the plant is shaken. If conditions are right, they may germinate and grow into new plants.



繁殖 Propagation

一串紅多以播種繁殖，秋、冬、早春均適合播種。種子可撒播在疏鬆濕潤的土壤上，發芽適溫為18°C至22°C。播種後澆水保持濕潤，約10至15天後種子便會發芽。育苗期間避免過度澆水，以防幼苗倒伏。如幼苗過於密集，須拔除弱苗。待幼苗長出3對葉片後，便可移植到盆中，並保持充足日照。在植株生長期間，每10至15天施用一次含少量氮、磷、鉀的複合肥。待苗高約10至12厘米時，須摘除頂芽，其後可因應幼苗生長，重複摘除頂芽，以增加分枝及花蕾數目。從播種到開花，需時約90天。在開花期間，每隔20至30天追施複合肥一次，可使花朵開得更茂盛。



除播種外，一串紅也可以頂莖扦插法繁殖。扦插可於春、秋兩季進行，介質以透氣及排水良好的乾淨砂質土壤為佳。扦插時，應選取不帶花芽的健壯枝條為插穗，每根插穗應長約6至8厘米，最少要有3至4個節，節與節之間相距宜短。除保留頂端3至4片葉外，摘掉其餘葉片，然後將插穗下半段三分之一至二分之一插入培植土壤。澆透水後，把插穗置於半遮陰處，溫度保持在15°C以上，約一星期後再移到較明亮處照射柔光，其間必須保持土壤濕潤。插穗約3星期後可見生根，待根部生長旺盛便可移植。

Scarlet Sage is mostly propagated by seed sowing, ideally in autumn, winter and early spring. Scatter seeds over loose, moist soil, with an optimum germination temperature of 18 to 22°C. Water regularly to keep the soil moist after sowing, and germination usually occurs in about 10 to 15 days. During the seedling stage, avoid overwatering to prevent lodging. Thin out the weaker seedlings if overcrowded. The seedlings are ready for potting once they have developed three pairs of leaves. Once potted, ensure sufficient sunlight exposure. Throughout the growth period, apply a fertiliser containing small amounts of the essential nutrients—nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (NPK)—every 10 to 15 days. When the seedlings reach about 10 to 12 cm in height, pinch off the apical buds. Repeat this process as needed to encourage branching and flower budding. It takes approximately 90 days from sowing to flowering. During the flowering period, applying NPK fertiliser every 20 to 30 days can promote more abundant blooms.

Alternatively, Scarlet Sage can be propagated by soft tip cuttings in spring or autumn. The rooting medium should preferably be well-aerated, properly drained and clean sandy loam. Select healthy and sturdy soft tips without flower buds as cuttings, each about 6 to 8 cm long with at least 3 to 4 nodes and preferably short internodes. Remove all leaves except the top 3 to 4 and insert the lower one-third to half of the cuttings into the growing medium. Water thoroughly and place the cuttings in a partially shaded area with temperatures above 15°C for about a week before moving them to a brighter spot with subdued light. Keep the medium moist throughout. The cuttings will root in about three weeks and can be transplanted once the roots are well-developed.





防治病蟲害

Prevention and Treatment of Pests and Diseases

一串紅在高溫潮濕的環境下較易受病蟲侵害。常見病害包括立枯病及白粉病，而蟲害則有蚜蟲、蓟馬等。如發現有病蟲害，應立即除去受影響部分，並施用有效殺蟲劑或殺菌劑。最佳預防方法是把植株放在陽光充足、通風及排水良好的環境中。適量澆水施肥，亦有利植株健康生長。

Scarlet Sage is prone to pests and diseases in hot and humid conditions. It is common for the plant to be attacked by diseases like damping off or powdery mildew and pests such as aphids and thrips. If pests or diseases are found, remove the affected parts immediately and apply appropriate insecticide or fungicide. The best prevention is to place the plant in an environment with abundant sunlight, good air circulation and proper drainage. Moderate watering and fertilising also help maintain plant health.

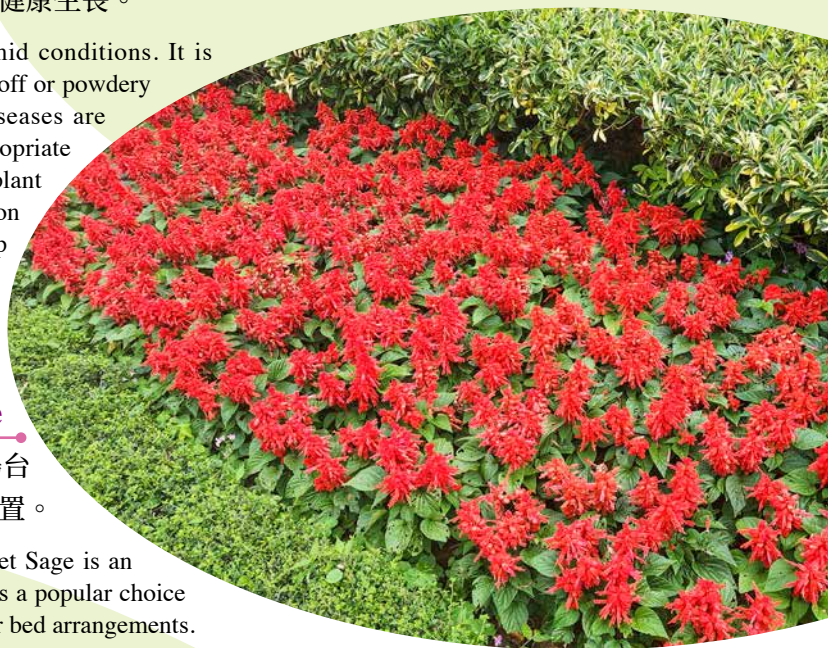


園藝應用及經濟價值

Horticultural Application and Economic Value

一串紅花色嫣紅亮麗，花期又長，適合種在庭園及陽台觀賞，常用作圍邊植物，亦宜用於園林造景和花壇布置。

With its brilliant red blooms and long flowering period, Scarlet Sage is an excellent ornamental plant for gardens and balconies, as well as a popular choice of edging plant. It is also well-suited for landscaping and flower bed arrangements.



一般護理須知

Notes on General Care

繁殖及護理 Propagation and care

最適溫度	發芽 Germination	18°C - 22°C
Optimum temperature	生長 Growth	15°C - 30°C

泥土酸鹼值	pH 5.6-6.0
pH value	

繁殖	播種 Seed sowing
Propagation	頂蘗扦插 Soft tip cuttings

	春 Spring	夏 Summer	秋 Autumn	冬 Winter
日照 Sunlight				
澆水 Watering				
施肥 Fertilising				

圖例 Key



日照充足 Abundant sunlight



少許 Little



中等 Medium



番茄

Tomato

科屬及分布 Family and Distribution

番茄，又名西紅柿，屬於茄科 (Solanaceae) 茄屬 (*Solanum*)，是一年生草本植物。原產於中南美洲，後傳播至全球溫帶及熱帶地區廣泛種植。品種繁多，多為紅色，也有橙、黃、綠、紫色等，有些還帶彩色條紋；大小不一，既有一口大小的車厘茄，也有直徑達十多厘米的牛番茄。香港氣候溫暖濕潤，適合種植耐熱品種。

Tomato is an annual herbaceous plant of the genus *Solanum* in the family Solanaceae. Native to Central and South America, it is now widely cultivated in temperate and tropical regions around the world. There are many varieties of tomatoes, most of which have red fruits, while others are orange, yellow, green, purple, and some even have colourful stripes. Fruit size varies, ranging from bite-sized cherry tomatoes to large beef tomatoes over 10 cm in diameter. Hong Kong's warm and humid climate is suitable for growing heat-tolerant varieties.

生長習性及護理 Growth Habits and Care

生長週期：一般為60至150天，依品種和種植環境而定。

溫度：生長適溫為20°C至30°C，高於35°C可引致落花落果。

日照：喜歡溫暖、乾爽及陽光充足的環境，忌高溫高濕，夏季需適當遮陰降溫。

澆水：保持土壤濕潤不積水，早晚澆水，切忌於炎熱的正午灌溉，以免果實裂開，雨季需注意排水。

土壤：以土層深厚、疏鬆、排水良好、富含有機質及pH值5.5至6.8的砂質壤土為佳，可添加堆肥或腐葉土改良土質。

種植方式：宜於春、秋兩季播種，秋季更佳。直接播種或育苗移植均可，行距約60至80厘米，株距約40至50厘米。

施肥：以腐熟堆肥作基肥，生長期每兩至三周施一次均衡肥。開花期及結果期需要充足養分，臨近花期改用高磷鉀肥，促進開花與果實發育。

修剪及支撐：適時摘除側芽，以保持通風透光。每株保留6至7個花序控制果實數量，以提升品質。搭建支架或網架，防止倒伏。

Growth cycle: 60 to 150 days in general, depending on the variety and planting environment.

Temperature: The optimum growth temperature is 20°C to 30°C. Temperatures above 35°C may cause flowers and fruits to fall.

Sunlight: Prefer a warm, dry and sunny environment, avoid high temperature and humidity. Keep cool under shade in summer.

Watering: Keep the soil moist without waterlogging. Water in the morning and evening. Avoid watering at hot noon to prevent fruit cracking. Ensure good drainage during the rainy season.

Soil: Deep, loose, well-drained, organic-rich sandy loam with a pH of 5.5 to 6.8 is preferred. Add compost or leaf mould to improve soil quality.

Planting: Best sow in spring and autumn, preferably autumn. Direct seeding or seedling transplanting are both feasible, with about 60 to 80 cm between rows and about 40 to 50 cm between plants.

Fertilisation: Use mature compost as base fertilisers. Apply balanced fertiliser every 2 to 3 weeks during the growth period. To ensure sufficient nutrients during the flowering and fruiting periods, switch to high-phosphorus-and-potassium fertilisers near the flowering period to encourage flowering and fruiting.

Pruning and support: Remove lateral buds in time to maintain airflow and light penetration. Control the number of fruits by retaining 6 to 7 inflorescences per plant to improve quality. Set up supports or trellises to prevent lodging.

園藝應用及經濟價值 Horticultural Application and Economic Value

果實色彩鮮艷，「櫻桃番茄」等品種更兼具食用與觀賞價值，適合盆栽或庭院種植。

番茄既是蔬菜也是水果，不但富含維他命C、茄紅素和胡蘿蔔素等營養成分，更具抗氧化功效，有益心血管健康。其用途廣泛，既可生吃，又能烹調入膳，還可加工製成番茄醬、罐頭及飲品等，經濟價值顯著。惟須注意未成熟果實含有生物鹼，不宜食用。

Tomatoes produce vibrantly coloured fruit and are ideal for potting or planting in the garden. Varieties such as "cherry tomatoes" offer both culinary and ornamental values.

Tomatoes are both a vegetable and a fruit. Rich in vitamin C, lycopene and carotene, they also possess antioxidant properties and support cardiovascular health. Incredibly versatile, tomatoes can be enjoyed fresh, cooked, or processed into sauces, canned food and beverages, making them highly economically valuable. It should be noted, however, that unripe tomatoes contain alkaloids and are therefore unsuitable for consumption.



辣椒 Chilli



科屬及分布

Family and Distribution

辣椒屬於茄科 (Solanaceae) 辣椒屬 (*Capsicum*)，是一年生草本植物，也有多年生草本及灌木品種。原產於中南美洲，現廣泛種植於全球熱帶及亞熱帶地區。人工栽培品種及變種繁多，常見品種有指天椒、燈籠椒、牛角椒及墨西哥辣椒等。

Chilli belongs to the genus *Capsicum* in the family Solanaceae. While most are herbaceous annuals, some are perennials and shrubs. Native to Central and South America, it is now widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions around the world. Chillies come in a wide range of cultivars and varieties, with common examples including red cluster peppers, sweet peppers, long peppers and jalapenos.



生長習性及護理

Growth Habits and Care

生長週期：一般為110至150天，品種和種植環境會影響生長週期的長短。

溫度：喜歡溫暖濕潤的氣候，不耐寒，忌高溫，生長適溫為20°C至30°C，低於10°C或高於35°C會影響開花結果。

日照：全日照植物，每日需至少6至8小時直射陽光。

澆水：不耐旱，需保持土壤濕潤，但切忌積水，以免根腐。開花結果期需增加水量。

土壤：以疏鬆、排水良好、富含有機質及pH值6.0至6.8的砂質壤土為佳。

種植方式：宜於春、秋兩季播種，直接播種或育苗移植均可，行距約50至60厘米，株距約30至40厘米。

施肥：以腐熟堆肥作基肥，生長期每隔兩至三周施一次均衡肥。開花期及結果期需要充足養分，臨近花期改用高磷鉀肥，促進開花與果實發育。

修剪及支撐：苗高15至20厘米時摘心，促進分枝，可增加果量及保持通風透氣。結果期可用竹竿固定，防止倒伏。

Growth cycle: 110-150 days in general, depending on the variety and planting environment.

Temperature: Prefer warm and humid climates; intolerant of cold and heat. The optimum growth temperature ranges between 20°C and 30°C. Flowering and fruiting are adversely affected below 10°C or above 35°C.

Sunlight: A full-sun plant which requires at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight per day.

Watering: Intolerant of drought. Keep the soil moist but avoid waterlogging to prevent root rot. Water frequently during flowering and fruiting period.

Soil: Loose, well-drained, organic-rich sandy loam with a pH of 6.0 to 6.8 is preferred.

Planting: The optimum sowing seasons are spring and autumn. Direct seeding and seedling transplanting are both feasible, with about 50 to 60 cm between rows and about 30 to 40 cm between plants.

Fertilisation: Use mature compost as base fertilisers. Apply balanced fertiliser every 2-3 weeks during the growth period. To ensure sufficient nutrients during the flowering and fruiting periods, switch to high-phosphorus-and-potassium fertilisers near the flowering period to encourage flowering and fruiting.

Pruning and support: Pinch the seedlings when they reach 15 to 20 cm tall to induce branching and increase fruit yield, as well as to maintain airflow. Use bamboo stakes as support during the fruiting period to prevent lodging.



園藝應用及經濟價值

Horticultural Application and Economic Value

果實色彩繽紛（如五彩椒），適合園藝觀賞、盆栽種植或裝飾庭院，部分品種形狀有趣，有些更兼具食用價值。

收成快，易於管理，經濟價值顯著。富含維他命C、胡蘿蔔素和辣椒素，具抗氧化功效，能促進血液循環、抗炎、增強免疫力等。其用途廣泛，既可生吃，又能烹調入膳，還可製成調味料及其他加工食品如辣椒粉、辣椒醬、醃製辣椒等。

With their colourful fruits (such as ornamental peppers), chillies are ideal for ornamental gardening, potting or courtyard decoration. Certain varieties develop pods in intriguing shapes, while others combine visual appeal with culinary values.

These fast-growing plants are easy to manage and have a high economic value. Rich in vitamin C, carotene, and capsaicin, their fruits possess antioxidant properties and may support blood circulation, reduce inflammation and boost immune function. Exceptionally versatile, chillies can be enjoyed raw, cooked, or processed into a variety of seasonings and products such as chilli powder, chilli sauce and pickles.



粟米 Corn



科屬及分布

Family and Distribution

粟米，又名玉蜀黍或玉米，屬於禾本科 (Poaceae) 玉蜀黍屬 (*Zea*)，是一年生草本植物。原產於中美洲墨西哥一帶，現廣泛種植於全球熱帶、亞熱帶及溫帶地區，香港全年均可種植。栽培品種繁多，常見品種有甜粟米、糯粟米、觀賞粟米及飼料粟米等。

Corn, also known as Maize, is an annual herbaceous plant of the genus *Zea* in the family Poaceae. Native to Mexico in Central America, it is now widely cultivated in tropical, subtropical and temperate regions across the world. In Hong Kong, it can be grown year-round. Cultivars are highly diverse, with common varieties including sweet corn, waxy corn, ornamental corn and field corn.



生長習性及護理

Growth Habits and Care

生長週期：90至120天（視乎品種，早熟品種可縮短至70天）。

溫度：喜歡溫暖濕潤的氣候，生長適溫為20°C至30°C。

日照：全日照植物，日照充足有效促進生長。

澆水：在苗期適度澆水，促進根系發育；生長期間保持土壤濕潤；開花期前後水量需求較多，但應避免積水。

土壤：適應力強，以土層深厚、疏鬆、排水良好、富含有機質及pH值5.5至7.0的砂質壤土為佳。

種植方式：可直接播種或育苗移植，行距約50至70厘米，株距約25至30厘米。

施肥：基肥為主，追肥為輔，氮、磷、鉀三要素需均衡補充。

田間管理：生長初期去側芽促進主莖發育，定期除草和培土，防止倒伏。

Growth cycle: 90 to 120 days (depending on the variety, the cycle can be shortened to 70 days for early maturing varieties).

Temperature: Prefer warm and humid climates, grow optimally at a temperature between 20°C and 30°C.

Sunlight: A full-sun plant; sufficient sunlight effectively promotes growth.

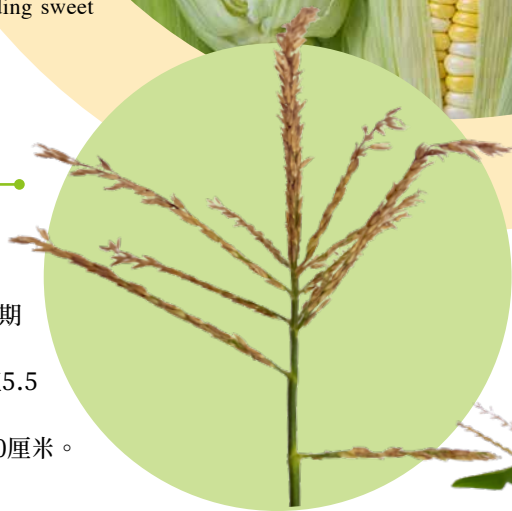
Watering: Water seedlings properly to boost root growth. Keep the soil moist during the growth period. Increase watering before and after flowering, but take care to avoid waterlogging.

Soil: Highly adaptable, grow best in deep, loose, well-drained, organic-rich sandy loam with a pH of 5.5 to 7.0.

Planting method: Direct seeding or seedling transplanting, with about 50 to 70 cm between rows and about 25 to 30 cm between plants.

Fertilisation: Use base fertiliser as the primary nutrient source, supplemented by top dressing, ensuring a balanced supply of the three essential nutrients, namely nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

Field management: Remove lateral buds in the early growth stage to promote the growth of the main stem; weed and earth up regularly to prevent lodging.



園藝應用及經濟價值

Horticultural Application and Economic Value

粟米是全球三大主糧之一，產量僅次於小麥和水稻，經濟價值可觀。穀物富含膳食纖維，用途廣泛，既可作新鮮食材，亦能加工製成粟米粉、粟米油、粟米糖漿等。農業上，粟米是主要的牲畜飼料；工業方面，更是提煉酒精、生物燃料及可降解塑料的重要原料。

觀賞型粟米品種可用於布置花境，植株高大者，還可打造臨時綠籬或設計迷宮。

As one of the world's top three staple crops with production second only to wheat and rice, corn holds substantial economic value. Rich in dietary fibre, this nutritious grain demonstrates remarkable versatility, serving not only as a fresh food, but also as raw material for processed products such as corn flour, corn oil, and corn syrup. Agriculturally, it constitutes a primary livestock feed, while industrially it serves as a crucial raw material for alcohol, biofuels, and degradable plastics.

Ornamental corn varieties are suitable for floral landscaping. The taller varieties can also be used to create temporary hedges or mazes.

