

Italian Pink

Subtropical Group



Softneck – Non-bolting

This is one of the main cultivars grown mainly in WA and Queensland. Italian Pink was named and then grown for more than 15 years by Danny Gleeson in Swan Hill, northern Victoria. He got it from his father-in-law in 1998, calling it Italian Pink after his father-in-law's country of origin, and the colour of the bulb. Danny thinks that it may be derived from Glenlarge, a cultivar developed at Gatton Research Station in Queensland. This may also be the same as, or the same origin as, Italian Red.

General Information

Other Names	None known
International Names	None, this is an Australian <u>cultivar</u>
Flavour	Very good. Moderate to hot when raw, with a rich, sweet, spicy flavour. Flavour improves if the bulbs are kept for a few weeks after <u>curing</u> and before use.
Storage	Reasonable, 7-9 months
Growing location	Grows best in Central to Southern Queensland, Northern NSW and Central WA. But will also do well in more southern regions as long as it isn't too cold and wet.
Growing requirements	Thrives in short day regions which experience reasonably cold winters. Enjoys heat early in spring and will tolerate some humidity. Day-length neutral. Does not like cold and wet winters.
Planting and harvest	Early to plant and early to harvest.

Bulb

Shape		Tear-drop shaped medium sized bulbs. 5-6 cm.
Skin colour and texture		White with pink or purple shades and fine stripes. Fairly coarse texture.

Clove

Number and layout

12-15 cloves in two (occasionally 3) layers.

Size and shape

Elongated cloves, 4 cm tall x 2.5 cm wide, with concave inner face.

Skin colour and texture

Pale pink to white skins, fine and can be hard to peel, although this improves with storage.

Plant**Size and shape**

Medium height although slender and is prone to falling over near harvest.

Leaves

Thin, yellow-green, quite widely separated.

Young plants

Very quick to emerge, and grow quickly. Distinctly different to most other garlicks.

Matures

Early, and goes from being nearly ready, to ready to harvest quite quickly.

Scape

No scape

Umbel and beak

No umbel.

Bulbils and flowers

No flowers but often forms 1-3 bulbils in the pseudostem. These are 1-1.5cm in diameter.

