

# Tomato

## TIPS

There is nothing more enjoyable than feasting on homegrown garden tomatoes. Whether beefsteak, cherry, or heirloom, they are all such a treat. They can be started in March by seed indoors, then transplanted late May to early June, weather dependent.



## WHERE, WHEN & HOW TO PLANT.

- Pick the sunniest garden spot, the more sun the more fruit!
- Do not plant outside too soon. The soil must be 15-18 degrees Celsius consistently before you plant. You can even warm up soil you will be planting with indoors.
- Plant deeper than they are in the pot. Tomatoes are one of the few plants that likes deep planting. It will help grow sturdier more resilient plants.
- Water deeply and cover with Garden Straw or Mulch to keep them from drying out. We carry bales of a sterile Garden Straw, that is perfect in all garden areas. Keeping moisture even can help prevent blossom end rot.
- Shortly after planting you want to fertilize using a fertilizer with calcium to prevent blossom end rot. We suggest Evolve organic tomato 3-2-2 Organic concentrated tomato and vegetable plant fertilizer. It contains calcium to help prevent blossom end rot. We also carry a granular version that can be sprinkled on the soil right after planting. You will have a rich tasting, larger tomato with a longer shelf life!
- Determinate (bush) tomato plants stop growing usually somewhere around 3'-4' feet tall. When flowers blossom at the tips of the branches, the plant has reached its full height. The fruit of a determinate tomato plant ripens all at once, making them a good canning choice.
- Indeterminate tomatoes continue to grow and can reach heights over 6 feet tall. They keep producing all season long, till they are hit with a hard frost. This type continues to produce tomatoes all growing season until a hard frost hits and stops them in their tracks These are the perfect type to grow if you want a continuous harvest for salads and sandwiches.



## MID SUMMER TIPS

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- This is the time of year we should be starting to enjoy some tasty, home-grown tomatoes.
- Tomatoes are calcium lovers, so save your eggshells to work in around your plants for extra slow-release calcium. You still need to fertilize early on though with a fertilizer with calcium.
- Water the soil around the tomato plant and not overtop.
- If you are a smoker, wash your hands with soap and water thoroughly before handling the tomato plants to prevent the Tomato Mosaic Virus. This virus produces distorted leaves and blotches on the fruit.
- Remove all the suckers (the stems that grow out between the main and side shoots) once the tomato plant has set fruit, remove all the stems underneath the fruit.



## FAVORITE VARIETIES

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**Big Beef** produce heavy yields of large "beefy" fruit. The tomatoes have rich flavor, good uniformity, and are very disease resistant. They are very easy to enjoy! Indeterminate. 70-75 days.

**Brandy Wine** A great-tasting Heirloom variety, producing huge, globe-shaped fruits. A favorite among market gardeners. Indeterminate. 70-75 days.

**Bush Beefsteak** produce large, meaty, solid fruit that is slightly flattened, and globe shaped. With a mild and flavorful taste, it is great for salads and table use. Determinate. 65-80 days.

**Manitoba** is a very dependable and early tomato variety that is excellent for the Prairies. Enjoy the bright red, juicy fruit earlier in the season than other varieties Determinate. 55-60 days.

**Roma** is a heavy-yielding variety with a wonderful mild flavor that is perfect for preserves, tomato paste and puree. Very little juice. Determinate, no staking required. 85-90 days.

**Sweet Million Tomatoes:** are easy to grow, and hardy plants adapt well to many climates. Tall vigorous vines grow masses of gorgeous red cherry tomatoes on long trusses.

**Tiny Tim Tomatoes** are an extremely early variety. The miniature scarlet-red cherry tomatoes are perfect for decorating salads and vegetable trays.

**Lemon Boy Tomato** is a hybrid, indeterminate tomato variety that produces bright yellow fruits with the perfect balance of sweet and tangy flavor. Known for their low acidity.