

TOMATOES

made easy

1. Choose a sunny location at least 6 to 8 hours
2. Choose a variety of Tomato

Indeterminate

- Grow, flower, and set fruit until the first frost.
- Have heights of 12 feet or more, but most top out at about 6 feet tall
- Produce fruit over a 2-to-3-month period beginning in mid-to-late summer.

Determinate

- Grow to a certain height, stop growing, and then flower.
- These small and often compact plants produce all their fruit over a two-to-three-week time frame.
- Short, intense harvest period make them a great choice for canning and freezing—large quantities of fruit are ripe at the same time for big batches of sauce, salsa, and more.

3. Will you grow your Tomato in a Pot, a New Raised Bed or Pre-Existing Garden Bed

POTS we recommend at least a 10-to-15-gallon pot, unless you are growing an extremely compact variety such as Tumbling Tom, Fantastico, Orange Hat, Gourmandize Yellow and many more. Then choose your favorite potting soil. Do not use garden soil in a container unless it is a trough. Some of our favorite potting soil brands are Dirty Dirt Pot-IT, Promix, Sungro Black Gold Potting Soil, Landscapers Pride Premium Potting Mix or Pot Dirt. Fertilome Ultimate Potting Soil and Espoma Potting Soils.

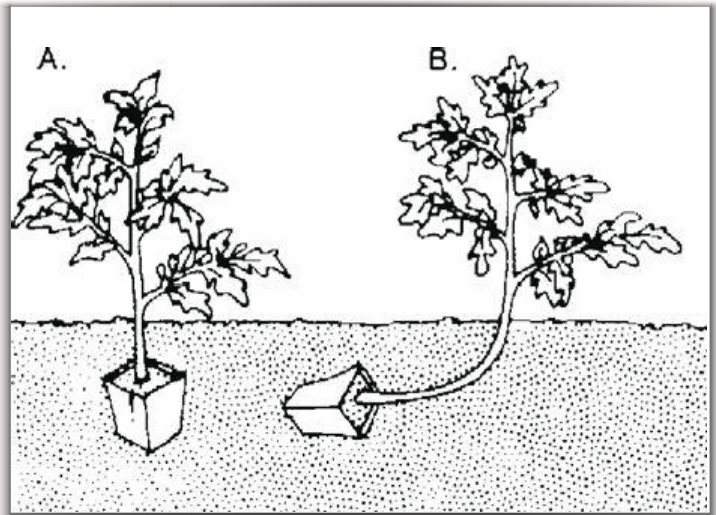
NEW RAISED BEDS use quality garden soil. You will have excellent results if you use Landscapers Pride Gardeners Magic, Dirty Dirt Raise-IT or Heirloom Soil Veggie Blend.

PRE-EXISTING GARDEN BED work in 1 to 3 inches of your favorite compost. We recommend rotating the variety of compost each growing season. Brands we recommend are Back to Nature – Cotton Burr, Natures, Blend or Cow Manure and Landscapers Pride Healthy Soil Compost and Mushroom Compost and Dirty Dirt – Condition-IT. After working the compost into soil be sure to water with Medina Soil Activator or Medina Plus. These products will stimulate soil microbes and chelate nutrients.

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4. Planting your Tomato.

Believe it or not Tomatoes are one of the only plants that can be planted deeper than grown. Or you can choose to plant them on their side too. After planting be sure to water them in with Medina Liquid Seaweed or Medina Plus. You can mix Medina Beneficial Microbes into either of these products. The Beneficial Microbes will inoculate the soil with beneficial bacteria, fungus and mycorrhiza. Beneficial microbes in the soil help keep plants healthy and make nutrients readily available to the plant. You want to get your Tomatoes off to the best healthy start.



5. Fertilize at the time of planting with your favorite granulated or powdered fertilizer. We recommend our Medina Growin Green 3-2-3 or Espoma Tomato Tone or Espoma Plant Tone. Be sure to rotate your dry fertilizers. Plants don't like to eat the same thing all the time just like you don't.

6. Make sure to cage your Tomato after planting. You do not want the branches to lie on the soil.

7. Mulch your Tomato to keep weeds at bay and the soil temperature cooler. Mulch helps to keep plants moist too. We recommend Pine Straw Needles.

8. Water your plants deeply on a regular basis. Check the moisture of the soil using your finger - it is the best guide. You will want the soil to feel like a well wrung out kitchen sponge - moist to the touch. You will need to check Tomatoes that are grown in containers more often.

9. Use liquid fertilizer throughout the growing season. You might start with a Medina Liquid Seaweed and Fish Blend after planting. You may use these products as a foliar spray or drench. You will rotate between the two back and forth. For more growth try the Medina Super Gro 16-0-2. Once you begin to see substantial growth and bud formation then switch to Hasta Gro Plant 6-12-6 as either a foliar spray or drench.

10. Be sure to check your plants daily. This will help you catch a problem quickly. Problems could be disease or insects. If you have an issue visit your locally owned garden center for advice on how to treat. Please make sure to bring a plant sample in a Ziploc bag as not to contaminate the garden center.

HAPPY
GARDENING!



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