

Easy to grow in a container!

Love the
Food
You Eat!

Growing Tomatoes

The most popular garden vegetable crop, tomatoes come in a wide range of sizes, shapes and colors. Compact varieties are also good choices for containers and planting in flower beds.



Some tomatoes are better than others for a multitude of uses: slicing, salads, sauces, canning, juice etc. Colors range from the familiar red to orange and yellow to pink and multi-colored fruits. Size and shape range from huge round beefsteaks to elongated pastes to tiny cherry and grape tomatoes and everything in between.

When to Plant: Cold soil and air temperatures can stress plants. Wait at least a week or two after the last frost. Nighttime temperatures should be consistently above 45 degrees. Recommend planting in mid- June with favorable conditions.

How to Plant: Set the plant in the ground so that the soil level is just below the lowest leaves. Roots will form along the buried stem, establishing a stronger root system. To reduce disease risk, don't plant on soils that have recently grown tomatoes, potatoes, peppers or eggplant for at least two years. Mulch plants after the soil has warmed up to maintain soil moisture and suppress weeds. Tomatoes need a consistent supply of moisture. If it rains less than 1 inch per week, water to make up the difference.

Preferred Sunlight: Full Sun. Tomatoes need at least 8 hours of direct sun daily.

Preferred Soil Conditions: Tolerates acid soil. Requires well drained soil. Prefers well-drained, fertile soil, high in organic matter. Avoid using fresh manure or high nitrogen fertilizers (those with three or more times nitrogen than phosphorus or potassium). This can cause poor fruit set or excessive foliage. On most soils, you can sidedress about 1/2 cup of 5-10-5 fertilizer per plant and work shallowly into the top inch of soil when fruits are about 1" in diameter and again when harvest begins.

Pruning: Prune tomatoes to one or two vigorous stems by snapping off "suckers" (stems growing from where leaf stems meet the main stem) when they are 2"-4" long.

Staking: Tie stems to stake with soft string, twine or cloth, forming a figure-8 with the stem in one loop and the stake in the other. This gives the stem room to expand without being constricted. Start about 8"-12" above ground and continue at similar intervals as the plant continues to grow. Growing tomatoes in cages is a good compromise between labor intensive staking and just letting them sprawl.



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13 Archie St., Auburn NY 13021

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To avoid common issues:

- Keep soil evenly moist to prevent blossom end rot. This can also help prevent cracking when fruit absorbs water too fast after heavy rain following dry conditions.
- Do not remove excess leaves that shade fruit to prevent sunscald.
- Calfacing (mishappen, deformed fruit) is caused by incomplete pollination, usually due to cold weather. Don't rush to plant until weather has stabilized and soil is warm.

Some varieties recommended for New York include:

Cherry:

Early Cherry
Fruity Orange
Sarah's Goldstar Cherry
Sungold
Supersweet 100

Grape:

Jubilee

Extra Early:

Cosmonaut Volkove
Current, Daybreak
Early Cascade
Gold Rush

Early:

Cascade
Early Girl
Gold Dust
Lemon Boy
Sunrise
Taxi

Main Season:

Basket Vee
Better Boy
Big Beef
Big Boy
Celebrity
Jet Star
Mountain Fresh
Mountain Spring
Sunbeam
Sunrise
Supersonic
Ultra Sweet

Source:

Cornell University, Home Gardening, Vegetable Growing Guides.
For a complete Growing Guide and additional information visit.

www.gardening.cornell.edu

Paste:

Classica
La Roma
Nova
Plum Dandy
Roma
Viva Italia

Heirlooms:

Big Rainbow
Black from Tula
Black Prince
Box Car Willie
Brandywine
Cherokee Purple
Golden Queen
Green Zebra
Moskvich
Mr. Stripey
Striped German
Striped Roman
Tappy's Heritage



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