

# TOMATO GROWING TIPS

## Environment

### **Climate Considerations:**

Select varieties that are suitable for your climate. There are determinate (bush type) and indeterminate (vining type) tomatoes, and some are better suited to certain climates than others.

### **Disease Resistance:**

Look for varieties that are resistant to common tomato diseases in your area.

## Preparing the Soil

### **Location:**

Choose a spot with full sun—tomatoes need at least 6-8 hours of sunlight daily.

### **Soil Quality:**

Tomatoes prefer well-drained, nutrient-rich soil. A pH of 6.0 to 6.8 is ideal.

### **Soil Preparation:**

Mix in compost or well-rotted manure to improve soil fertility and structure.

## Planting

### **Timing:**

Plant tomatoes after the last frost date in your area. Soil temperature should be at least 60°F (15°C).

### **Spacing:**

Space determinate varieties about 18-24 inches apart and indeterminate varieties 24-36 inches apart. Rows should be 3-4 feet apart.

### **Planting Depth:**

Plant tomatoes deeper than they come in the pot. You can bury the plant up to the top few leaves. This encourages a strong root system.

## Watering

### **Consistent Moisture:**

Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. Water at the base of the plant to avoid wetting the foliage, which can lead to disease.

### **Mulching:**

Apply mulch to help retain soil moisture and regulate soil temperature.

## Feeding

### **Fertilization:**

Use a balanced fertilizer when planting. After fruit sets, switch to a fertilizer with a higher phosphorus and potassium content.

### **Organic Options:**

Compost tea or fish emulsion can be used as organic alternatives.

## Staking and Pruning

### **Support:**

Use stakes, cages, or trellises to support indeterminate varieties. This keeps the fruit off the ground and reduces disease risk.

### **Pruning:**

Remove suckers (the small shoots that grow between the main stem and the branches) to improve air circulation and direct energy to fruit production.

## Pest and Disease Management

### **Natural Remedies:**

Use neem oil or insecticidal soap for pest control.

**Disease Prevention:** Practice crop rotation and avoid planting tomatoes in the same spot each year. Water at the base of the plant to keep foliage dry.

## Common Tomato Disease and Deficiency



### Early Blight

Blight is a fungal infection. Spray with anti-fungal spray.



### Late Blight

Late blight is also a fungal infection, but at the end of the grow cycle.



### Blossom End Rot

Calcium deficiency is the cause of Blossom End Rot. Needs more Ca/Mg.