



## Tomato Starts Information

| Variety  | Type | Spacing (in''/ft') |      | Size                  | Timing    | Days to maturity | Container friendly* |
|--|------|--------------------|------|-----------------------|-----------|------------------|---------------------|
|  |      | Plants             | Rows |                       |           |                  |                     |
| <b>Bonny Best OP</b><br>heirloom                 | Vine | 20-30''            | 3'   | Medium                | Early     | 75-80            |                     |
| <b>Brandywine OP</b><br>heirloom                 | Vine | 20-30''            |      | Large                 | Mid       | 80-100           | Y                   |
| <b>Early Cascade OP</b>                          | Vine | 20-30''            |      | Medium                | Early     | 55-65            | Y                   |
| <b>Golden Nugget OP</b>                          | Bush | 18-24''            |      | Cherry                | Early     | 55-60            | Y                   |
| <b>Golden King of Siberia OP</b><br>yllw oxheart | Vine | 20-30''            |      | Large                 | Mid       | 85-95            |                     |
| <b>Green Zebra F1</b>                            | Vine | 20-30''            |      | Medium                | Mid       | 75-80            | Y                   |
| <b>Juliet F1</b>                                 | Vine | 20-30''            |      | Small<br>(plum/paste) | Early     | 55-70            |                     |
| <b>Old German OP</b><br>heirloom                 | Vine | 20-30''            |      | Large                 | Mid       | 75-85            |                     |
| <b>Paul Robeson OP</b><br>heirloom               | Vine | 20-30''            |      | Large                 | Mid       | 70-90            | Y                   |
| <b>Pink Brandywine OP</b><br>heirloom            | Vine | 20-30''            |      | Large                 | Mid       | 80-100           | Y                   |
| <b>Red Zebra OP</b><br>heirloom                  | Vine | 20-30''            |      | Medium                | Mid       | 75-80            | Y                   |
| <b>Sugary F1</b>                                 | Vine | 20-30''            |      | Cherry                | Mid       | 60-65            |                     |
| <b>Sun Gold F1</b>                               | Vine | 20-30''            |      | Cherry                | Mid       | 55-65            | Y                   |
| <b>Sweet Million F1</b>                          | Vine | 20-30''            |      | Cherry                | Early/mid | 60-65            | Y                   |

\*most tomato varieties can grow in containers if they are large enough (ie a garbage pail!), but these varieties are particularly suitable for medium to large planters.

**Planting and growing tomatoes:** Early varieties can be hardened-off when night time temperatures are at 7°C, other varieties should be hardened-off when overnight lows are 10°C and higher.

### Hardening-off process:

**Day 1:** Leave outside during the day in a semi-shaded, protected area.

**Day 2:** Leave outside in a sunny protected area.

**Day 3:** Leave outside all day in a sunny, protected area, and leave them out all night, too!

**Day 4:** Plant your seedlings in their permanent position according to the following guidelines.

**Planting:** Tomatoes are tropical plants so they require full sun and lots of heat. Tomatoes like fertile, well-drained soil that is high in organic matter. Ideal pH: 6.0-6.8. Vine varieties will require some kind of support such as a wire to grow up, or a trellis to be tied to as the plant grows. Bush types benefit from the support of a tomato cage in order to prevent sprawling. Dig in finished compost and manure, and add up to 1 cup complete organic fertilizer beneath each transplant. The nutrition from heavy clay soils is excellent for tomatoes, but they are slow to warm, so transplanting should be done later. By the same token, lighter soils warm more quickly, so transplants can go out sooner. At the time of final transplant, plants can be buried up to their first pair of true leaves. This will encourage greater root growth, helping with both nutrient uptake and the plants' ability to stand up to dry conditions. Adding glacial rock dust or crushed egg shells will supply the calcium they will need.

**Organic Tomato Fertilizer recipe:**

2.5 C Bone meal from fish meal(high in phosphorus) or rock phosphate (not as bio-available)  
2 C Kelp meal  
2 C Alfalfa meal  
2.5 C Dolopril

Combine (protecting yourself from the dust!) and sprinkle under each plant at a rate of ¼ C to ¾ C depending on the fertility of your soil. The washed, dried, and crushed egg-shells are also highly recommended!

**Care:**

Regular watering is vital, but don't let the plants sit in water. Stop watering around the end of July to encourage the fruit to ripen. If your plants are grown under cover, you can encourage pollination and fruit set by tapping the stem from time to time. Tomatoes do not rely on insects for pollination. Vibrating the plant shakes pollen loose within the flowers, which then self-pollinate.

Indeterminate (vine) tomatoes continue to grow and produce fruit until they are killed by frost. Remove any suckers (stems growing from the crotch of leaves) to keep the foliage under control, and they will set a later crop of larger fruit. Determinate (bush) varieties normally set fruit in a concentrated time period. Their suckers are not normally removed, though some trimming helps with ventilation.

\*planting information from the West Coast Seed website <https://www.westcoastseeds.com/how-to-grow-guides/grow-tomato-seeds/>

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