

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Not winter hardy. Will thrive from spring to fall in all zones.
PLANT TYPE	Annual.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 2 feet apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 16-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	Baby Boomer: 2 feet tall with a 3 foot spread. Blockbuster Combo: 2 to 4 feet tall with a 2 to 3 foot spread. Bush Early Girl: 3 feet tall with a similar spread. Napa Grape: 4 feet tall with a 3 foot spread. Rosy Finch: 12 inches tall with a 24 inch spread. Summer Girl: 5 feet tall with a 3 foot spread.
BLOOM TIME	Summer to frost.
FACTS OF NOTE	Edible fruit. High-yielding. Perfect for patios and small gardens.

SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.nifa.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.

Thank you for your order!

There's no flavor quite as tasty as that of a home-grown tomato! Bearing an abundance of sweet, juicy fruits, these exceptional varieties will supply your table with fresh produce all season long. With these productive varieties, you'll enjoy a bountiful supply of tomatoes perfect for making salads, sandwiches, salsas and more.

Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of the plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless, but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.

1-800-222-1222

TOMATOES



*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

OUT OF THE BOX

TOMATOES

Your plants have been shipped to you in pots. We urge you to remove them from the shipping box and plant them as soon as possible. Should planting be delayed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, roll the plastic bag down around the plants and place them near a bright window or other sunny location. Keep them well-watered in their pots until permanently planted. Once planted, they will begin setting roots and, as the weather warms, begin showing new growth. Please plant as soon as possible, provide reasonable care and be patient.

The foliage on potted plants may appear slightly wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is usually nothing to worry about. Water the plant thoroughly, place it in a shady location and remove any foliage that does not recover.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Important: Thoroughly hydrate the plant by submersing the root zone in a container of water for 10 minutes while you prepare for planting.

1. Remove and discard the clear plastic bag from around the pot.
2. After watering, remove the pot by holding the plant upside down in one hand and squeezing the sides of the pot with the other.
3. Prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. This will encourage the roots to begin growing outward into the new soil.
4. Dig a hole at least twice as deep and twice as wide as the plant's root ball. Tomatoes are a rare exception where planting deeply is beneficial. Plant each tomato where only 3-5 inches of the stem is above the soil line. Tall tomato plants can be planted on their side in a trench with the tops bent upward. Refill the hole or trench with soil, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers.
5. Water thoroughly.

CONTINUING CARE

WATERING	<p>Adequate and consistent watering is essential for tomatoes. Inconsistent watering and soils that do not hold water evenly can cause problems with fruit development.</p> <p>Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. You may need to water as often as every day in periods of drought and extreme summer heat.</p> <p>Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.</p>
STAKING & CAGING	<p>Tomatoes can be supported by staking or by using tomato cages. To stake tomatoes, drive a wooden, plastic or metal stake into the ground 3-6 inches from the base of each plant at planting time. As the plant grows, attach it to the stake using plant ties, taking care to avoid damaging the stems. Selective pruning helps keep the plant manageable, but is not necessary for fruit production.</p> <p>Alternately, place a tomato cage around each plant at planting time and press the legs into the ground. A small stake may be placed in the ground on each side of the cage to help keep it upright, particularly in windy areas. The plant will support itself on the cage as it grows and should need no pruning.</p>
FEEDING	<p>To maximize the growth and performance of your plants, feed them with a water soluble fertilizer for fruits and vegetables once every 2 to 3 weeks during the growing season.</p>
MULCHING	<p>Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.</p>
HARVESTING	<p>Tomatoes are ready to be harvested once they have changed from green to red or yellow. Store freshly picked tomatoes at room temperature out of direct sunlight. To preserve flavor and texture, avoid refrigerating fresh tomatoes. Do not consume any other part of the plant.</p>

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

WINTERIZING	<p>Tomatoes are tender annuals that cannot tolerate any frost or freezing temperatures. In the event of a late spring frost, protect young plants by covering them overnight with a sheet, frost blanket or an inverted bucket or box. Remove any material used to cover the plants the following morning. Plants in containers should be moved into a protected area on exceptionally cold nights. Discard the plants when they have finished fruiting at the end of the season.</p>
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TIPS FROM MASTER GARDENERS

COMMON TOMATO PROBLEMS AND REMEDIES

Blossom End Rot: This condition develops due to a lack of calcium. It can be caused by a calcium deficiency in the soil or a moisture shortage while fruit is forming. During a moisture shortage, cells in developing fruits are deprived of calcium, causing some of them to die. As the fruit matures, a dry, leathery depression appears on the blossom side. Have your soil tested regularly to determine if it needs additional calcium. Provide uniform watering, use mulch under and around the plants, and protect them for drying winds.

Catfacing: Catfacing is signified by scarring, puckering and deformation at the top of the fruit. It is caused by temperature fluctuations and incomplete pollination at flowering time. This condition is only cosmetic and does not affect the flavor of the tomato. It will correct itself as conditions improve.

Cracking: Cracking occurs when soil moisture fluctuates as fruit is developing. After a heavy rainstorm or watering after a period of drought, the skin may respond to the sudden influx of moisture by cracking or splitting. Maintain a regular watering schedule and use mulch to help prevent cracking. Fruits that have begun to crack are still edible, but should be picked and used right away.

Flower Drop / No Fruit: This problem can occur during periods of high daytime or low nighttime temperatures. Hot, drying winds can intensify the problem. Under these conditions, flowers may drop before developing into fruit. Blossom set sprays help to reduce spring blossom drop, but have little effect during high temperatures. This problem typically disappears as the weather improves.