

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full to part 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 3 feet apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 16-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	3 or more feet tall with a similar spread.
BLOOM TIME	Summer to frost.
FACTS OF NOTE	Edible fruit. Disease resistant. High-yielding.

VARIETAL INFORMATION

DETERMINATE / INDETERMINATE

Determinate varieties grow to a specific size, then begin setting fruit. Most of the crop will be produced in a relatively short time span and the tomatoes can usually be harvesting in two to five pickings. When the plants stop bearing, they can be removed from the garden.

Indeterminate varieties are vigorous growers that grow much larger and produce fruit until the first frost. Tomatoes from indeterminate plants are usually available for picking throughout the entire growing season.

DAYS TO MATURITY

Days to maturity indicates the average number of days from transplanting until the first mature fruits are available for harvesting. Though days to maturity can vary based on environmental conditions, most varieties fit into the following designations:

Early - 55 to 65 days after transplanting.

Mid-season - 65 to 80 days after transplanting.

Late - over 80 days after transplanting.

Pineapple: Indeterminate. Late season.

Sun Sugar: Indeterminate. Mid-season.

Thank you for your order!

PLANT WARRANTY

We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reship the following shipping season.

If you have any questions or concerns about your order, please contact us at 888-593-3644 or help@cottagefarmsdirect.com.

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**

GRAFTED 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

GRAFTED TOMATOES

Your plants have been shipped to you in pots. Please remove the plants from the packaging right away and plant them as soon as possible following the planting instructions below. If it is not possible to plant them right away, follow these important steps:

1. Roll the plastic down around each plant and place them in a sunny location.
2. Keep the plants well watered.

Note: Some leaves may appear wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is nothing to worry about. Water the plant and let it recover in a shady location for a few days, then gently remove any foliage that does not recover to allow for new growth.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Important: It is crucial to plant grafted tomatoes correctly. Keep the graft above soil level and do not cover it with soil. Planting too deeply will damage the graft and can kill the plant.

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 twice as deep and twice as wide as the plant's root ball. Partially backfill the hole with soil and place the plant into the hole. The top of the root ball should be level with the ground surrounding the hole. Refill the hole with soil, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and re-firm the soil.
5. Water thoroughly.

CONTINUING CARE

WATERING	<p>Adequate and consistent watering is essential for tomatoes. Inconsistent watering or 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>
	<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 plants grow, attach them to the stake using plant ties, taking care to avoid damaging the stems. Selective pruning helps keep the plants 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>
STAKING & CAGING	
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>
WEEDING	<p>Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with surrounding plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.</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>

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

HARVESTING	<p>Tomatoes are ready to be harvested once they have changed from green to red or yellow, depending on the variety. 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>
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. The plants should be discarded when they have finished fruiting at the end of the season.</p>

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: This condition is signified by irregular scarring, puckering and deformation, usually toward 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 fruits are developing. After a heavy rainstorm or watering after a period of drought, the tomato skin becomes unable to accommodate the extra moisture and responds by cracking or splitting. To prevent cracking, maintain a regular watering schedule and use mulch under and around the plants. Fruits that have begun to crack are still edible and should be picked right away.