

TOMATO

HARVEST

summer-early fall



LIGHT

Tomatoes need at least 6–8 hours of direct sunlight daily. Whether grown in a garden bed or a patio pot, place them in the sunniest location possible to support strong growth and maximize fruit production.



SOIL

Plant in well-draining, nutrient-rich soil like Uncle Mike's Organic Growing Blend. For in-ground planting, work compost or aged manure into the top 6–12 inches of soil before sowing or transplanting. For patio pots or raised beds, we recommend Uncle Mike's Organic Potting Mix.



WATER

Water when the top inch of soil feels dry, keeping the soil consistently moist, but never soggy. Tomatoes are heavy feeders and drinkers, especially once they begin flowering. Avoid overhead watering to reduce the risk of leaf diseases; water at the base instead.



FERTILIZER

We recommend True Organic Tomato & Vegetable Plant Food, Espoma's Tomato-tone, or Neptune's Harvest Fish & Seaweed Fertilizer. Start feeding about 2–3 weeks after transplanting, and follow the product label for frequency.



TEMPERATURE

Tomatoes grow best between 65–85°F (18–29°C). Avoid planting outdoors until nighttime temperatures stay above 50°F (10°C). Protect young plants from chilly nights with row covers or cloches. Hot summer days are fine, but extremely high temps (above 90°F) can cause flowers to drop.



ISSUES + FIXES

Blossom end rot is usually caused by calcium deficiency or inconsistent watering, using a calcium-rich fertilizer and keeping soil moisture steady can help. Early/late blight are fungal diseases best prevented with good air circulation and mulch to reduce soil splash. Tomato hornworms can be treated with an organic pesticide.



SUPPORT & PRUNING

Provide support with stakes, cages, or trellises to keep plants upright and prevent damage. Prune off lower leaves as the plant grows to reduce the risk of soil-borne disease, and remove suckers to improve airflow and help the plant focus energy on fruit production.



SOWING

Start seeds indoors 6–8 weeks before last frost date. Sow ¼ inch deep in seed-starting mix and place in a warm, bright spot. Keep soil moist but not soggy. When seedlings have 2–3 sets of true leaves, transplant into larger pots. Harden off by exposing them to outdoor conditions over 7–10 days before planting outside.