

2021

TOMATO BASICS

Best Feeds Garden Centers



BUSH BEEF STEAK TOMATO

Tomatoes are warm season plants that can be grown from seed or purchased as a plant ready for your vegetable garden.



THE DETAILS

When planting your tomatoes, choose a location that receives at least 6 hours of sunlight a day. Allow adequate spacing between plants to insure air circulation. Soil should be well drained with organic matter added



Best Feeds Organic Soil Conditioner is a good choice for adding organic matter. Nutrients must be added at time of planting. A basic ratio of 5-10-10 works well found in **Espoma Garden Tone**.



Water consistently. Fluctuations in the amount of moisture in the soil makes the plant susceptible to problems like cracking, rot of blight.

If you don't have space for a vegetable garden, consider planting in containers. Just make sure to planter is big enough. Large varieties need at least a 12 inch pot.

Train tomatoes to grow upright with a cage or even just a stick. With a little care soon you will be enjoying a tomato salad or a yummy sandwich!



The Highlights

Tomato Types



Tomato Types

There are two basic varieties of tomatoes.

The first will continue to set fruit as long as the weather permits. The other grows to a set size and sets its fruit all at one time. Check the plant tag for recommend planting conditions and disease resistance.

Planting

From seed or plant

Always wait until the last chance of frost has passed before planting. In our area that is usually around May 15th. The USDA considers Pittsburgh a Hardiness Zone 6.

Seed starting

When to start seeds

Tomatoes grown from seed must be started indoors. Usually 6-8 weeks from planting date (Mid March to Mid April) to plant mid to late May.

Temperature

Very Important

Regardless of the calendar date, the soil must be warm for planting. Many varieties will not set fruit with cold air and soil temperatures. A piece of black plastic (a garbage bag will do) placed over the soil will help warm and reduce transplant shock.