

TOMATO planting and growing

Planting and Growing Great Tomatoes in a Nature-Based Garden



Harvest tomatoes when they are fully ripe to ensure the best flavor and texture, and handle them carefully to avoid bruising or damaging the fruit and plants.



1 Start with healthy soil. Lay the groundwork for healthy tomatoes by nurturing rich, living soil. Incorporate organic matter like compost and leaf litter to improve soil structure and provide essential nutrients for plant growth.

2 Plant in a Sunny Spot: Tomatoes require plenty of sunlight to flourish, so plant them in a location that receives at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight per day.

3 Provide Adequate Support: Use stakes, cages, or trellises to support tomato plants and keep them upright as they grow, which helps prevent disease and improves air circulation around the plants.



4 Water Wisely: Water tomato plants deeply and consistently, aiming to keep the soil evenly moist but not waterlogged. Consider using drip irrigation or soaker hoses to minimize water waste.

5 Mulch: Apply a layer of organic mulch such as straw, shredded leaves, or grass clippings around tomato plants to conserve soil moisture, suppress weeds, and promote soil health.

6 Feed Regularly: Fertilize tomato plants with organic, nutrient-rich amendments such as compost, compost tea, or organic fertilizer to ensure they have the essential nutrients needed for vigorous growth and fruit production.

7 Monitor for Pests and Diseases: Keep a close eye on tomato plants for signs of pest infestations or disease outbreaks, and take proactive measures such as handpicking pests or using organic pest control methods as needed.

8 Prune Suckers: Remove suckers from indeterminate tomato varieties to encourage better airflow and focus plant energy on fruit production rather than excessive foliage growth.

Save Your Seeds! If you're growing heirloom tomato varieties, consider saving seeds from your best-performing plants to preserve genetic diversity and adaptability in your nature-based garden ecosystem.

