

What should I consider when choosing a tomato plant?



Tomatoes are one of the most popular plants to grow in a vegetable garden. There are many varieties of tomatoes ranging from red to yellow, orange, and purple in colour and from very small tomatoes to very large ones that can weigh up to 2 lbs each.

CONSIDERATIONS

1 Is the VARIETY Determinate (Bush tomatoes) or Indeterminate (Vine tomatoes)?

Determinate Varieties

- shorter plants that stop producing new shoots or flowers after reaching their full size
- fruit generally ripens early and all at once
- can be easily grown in containers



Indeterminate Varieties

- continues to grow new shoots and flowers until cut down or killed by cold
- fruit continuously throughout the season
- can grow over 8 feet tall, needs staking!



Some varieties are bred to resist certain viruses or fungal disease, look for this information on the seed package

2 How long does it take for fruit to mature?



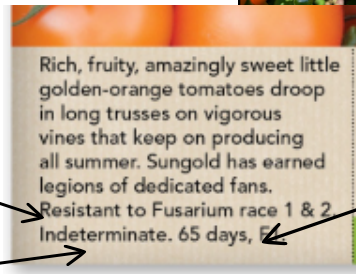
Maturity days: (from transplanting)

Early season: 40 to 70 days

Mid season: 60 to 70 days

Late season: 80 to 100 days

Fungal resistance



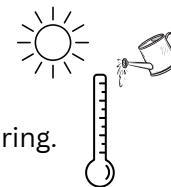
Maturity days

Type

TIP: grow a few early varieties to ensure fruit ripening in cool summers.

3 What growing conditions do tomatoes prefer?

- Sun: full sun, 6 to 8 hours
- Water: 1 to 1 ½ inch per week preferably in the morning and avoid overhead watering.
- Soil: slightly acidic with pH of 6.2 to 6.8; well drained
- Temperature: grows best at 26 to 30 °C.



Note: Heat sterilizes pollen, temperature over 30 °C will kill flowers and delay ripening.

4 What features should I look for when purchasing transplants?

- Healthy, dark green leaves.
- Avoid plants with leggy growth, yellow leaves or with roots growing out the bottom of the pot.



RESOURCES

PHOTO & Illustration CREDITS: All images/diagrams: CANVA or VIMGA members.
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