



HomeLeisure®

Tips For Growing Great Tomatoes

DISCOVER THE WHERE, WHEN, WHAT &
MORE OF GROWING TOMATOES

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When?

Tomatoes like the warmth and despise the cold. So in warm, frost free regions tomatoes can be grown throughout the year.

In cooler climates, ideal planting times are from the end of winter through to spring - after the final winter frost.

Tomatoes require at least 12 weeks growing time.

Please note: Some special varieties can be planted outside of the regular tomato growing season. Be sure to check the instructions when buying your plant.

Where?

Tomato seedlings can be successfully grown in pots or beds, as long as a daily supply of 5-7 hours of direct sunlight is available.

For growing tomatoes from seeds a seedling tray is required - such as the HomeLeisure REKO GYO Seedling Tray. Most seeds take around 5-7 days to germinate and can then be transplanted into your growing pot or garden bed.

Greenhouses or hot houses can also be used to grow your tomatoes. But, sunlight, warmth and the right mix of soils will provide the perfect formula for growing tomatoes anywhere.

Also important, protect your tomato plants from strong winds, bugs, and hungry predators.

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What?

Seeds or seedlings?

Tomatoes can be grown from seeds or seedlings, however in colder climates seedlings may need to be propagated inside then moved outside once the frosts have passed.

Seedlings are readily available and will allow you to harvest an earlier crop - taking 2 - 3 weeks less growing time than seeds.

In?

Before planting, ensure you prepare your soil properly. This can include digging and moving the soil with compost and tomato specific fertilisers. Tomatoes will grow well in just about any soil provided that they are well drained and enriched with manure and fertilisers.

However, avoid adding too much animal manure.

To prevent plant disease don't plant your new tomato plants where old ones have just recently grown. An ideal solution would be to plant in a pot, such as the HomeLeisure Self-Watering Tomato & Vege Planter, with a premium quality potting mix and swapping it out when it comes time to plant a new seedling.

The HomeLeisure Self-Watering Tomato & Vege Planter will not only save you water but aids in keeping the soil moist for longer.

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How?

For an earlier harvest, planting seedlings is the way to go. When planting seedlings ensure that the planting hole is large in comparison to the seedling you are planting and that you gently loosen the roots.

Place the seedling into the planting hole ensuring that the soil level on the seedling is the same as the rest of the soil. Fill the hole and gently apply pressure to the surface - this moves the soil in closer contact with the roots.

Planting seeds takes a little more time, but can often feel more rewarding. The HomeLeisure range of REKO GYO products provides all the tools you need to successfully grow seeds - starting with the Seedling Tray.

To plant seeds, fill the seedling tray with a damp seed starting mix - or a peat pellet. Fill remainder of the seedling tray cell with soil and plant your seeds about 3mm deep. Ensure that the seed is in direct contact with the peat pellet as this is where it will absorb most of it's moisture.

Maintenance?

In order to continue caring for your tomato plants, you will need to suppress weeds and other pests. Be sure to remove weeds regularly and keep pests away with the use of nets, tomato dust and fruit friendly pest repellants.

Also important is to maintain moisture in the soil. To do so you may need to utilise a decent layer of mulch. To avoid nasty stem rot, make sure the mulch doesn't come into direct contact with your plant's stem. Regular watering can keep moisture levels right, and using a WaterSaver pot can ensure that your plants have an ample water supply.

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Support?

By nature, tomatoes like to climb. It's important to give them them proper support using a stake or trellis system, such as the HomeLeisure Self-Watering Tomato & Vege Planter. Use long stakes, 1-2 meters, and secure them into the ground at least 5cm from the plant's stem.

Training plants upwards helps create more space and stops the plant coming into contact with damp soil.

As the plant grows, tie it to the stake using suitable ties - even cable ties work!

Please note: Not all tomato varieties need stake support - be sure to check the instructions when buying your plant.

Care?

Tomatoes require regular watering, generally at least once a week while they're still in seedling stages.

If the weather becomes hot and dry, increase watering - and do so in the early hours of the day while it's still cool.

To avoid fungal problems, directly water the soil and avoid getting the leaves wet.

Please note: Some tomato varieties need to be watered more often than others - be sure to check the instructions when buying your plant.

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Up Keep?

By setting up your soil properly, you shouldn't need to add any more fertilisers until the plant begins to flower.

Once you spot flowers, apply more fertiliser, and then continue to feed weekly throughout the growing period.

As the plant grows new side shoots will develop lower on the stem. By pinching off some of these side shoots, new growth will occur and often will generate double stems - significantly increasing the overall harvest.

Eating?

Now for the best part - the eating stage!

To pick the best fruit possible, pick when ripe. The tomato should be plump and bright red.

Once you've made your first harvest, the tomatoes don't stop there - tomatoes plants will keep producing over several weeks. Often you will end up with more tomatoes than you can handle, so your friends will love them too!

For storage, tomatoes can be kept in your fridge for several weeks. They can be kept even longer when made into sauces.

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