

Tips for Growing Tomatoes

CLASSIFICATIONS

Indeterminate - vining, can get up to 8-10 feet tall

Determinate - compact plants, bushy, produces fruit in sets

Hybrid - developed by breeders to produce stronger, disease resistant plants. NOT GMO. Created through cross pollination.

Heirloom - a variety that is at least 50 years old, pre WW2. Some developed by a university for a particular region. Most were seeds handed down from generation to generation. Open pollinated.

- 1 - Choose the variety you want to grow - see next page for tomato varieties that do well in south Florida
- 2 - Dig Deep
Choose the place to plant and dig a hole or trench about 1 foot deep
- 3 - Place fertilizer in the hole - make sure to add rock phosphate
- 4 - Remove the leaves from the stem that will be buried
- 5 - Water infrequently and deep - water needs to get to the root ball that you planted.
- 6 - Don't over fertilize or overwater. Water the root, not the plant - once or twice a week. Keep water off the leaves
- 7 - Support your plant with tomato cage or poles. We are an open space and it gets windy. Also, tomatoes will weigh down the branches
- 8 - Prune the bottom branches near the soil. Prune other branches to make sure there is air flow to prevent disease. Determinate varieties do not need much pruning.

DISEASES

Verticillium wilt (V), Fusarium wilt (F), Root Knot Nematode (N), Tobacco Mosaic Virus (T)

These diseases are in the soil and spread. Use mulch around your plants to protect them and also to retain moisture. Pull off any yellowing leaves as they appear - DO NOT PUT THESE IN THE COMPOST - put in dumpster

Some Recommended Tomato Varieties:

Indeterminate

Sun Gold - one of the world's favorite cherry tomatoes - hybrid, delicious

Better Boy - hybrid, slicing, dependable

Cherokee Purple - heirloom, great flavor, people's favorite

Early Girl - hybrid, slicing

Black Cherry - cherry, heirloom, one of my favorites, great flavor

Sweet 100 - cherry, hybrid

Beefstake - heirloom, slicing

Arkansas Traveler - heirloom, slicing

Brandywine - heirloom, slicing

Pineapple - heirloom, yellow, red, delicious, and very big

Determinate

Celebrity - hybrid, slicing

Patio - dwarf, great for containers or small space

San Marzano - heirloom, paste

Homestead - hybrid, slicing

Green Zebra - small heirloom

Solar Set - hybrid, slicing

Sun Master - hybrid, slicing