

Some Tomato Growing Tips



- Crumpled up wet newspaper in the bottom of each hole helps to retain moisture in times of drought.
- Put a handful of baked or boiled, crumpled or ground egg shells in bottom of pot or hole and mix with some soil. (this helps to stop blossom end rot and adds calcium). Or side dress if you've already planted.
- Plant deeply, covering some of the lower leaves. Tomatoes send out roots all along the stems.
- When growing in pots, fertilize weekly.
- Protect from rain to discourage blight.
- After the first truss of tomatoes has set, remove lower leaves to promote air circulation.
- Nip off suckers. (or let them grow to 5", then plant as cutting)
- Tap the plant every morning to encourage pollen to drop.
- A fan blowing on plants makes strong stems.- A Tbsp. of epsom salts in the pot or around the plant once a month. (magnesium)- A Tbsp. of lime scratched in once a month to stop blossom end rot

Basic Garden (Organic) Fertilizer good for general gardening

10 parts canola meal (soya meal) (slow release)

1 part kelp meal (70 trace nutrients)

1 part bone meal

1 part lime (except for potatoes)

Mix together

(Otter Coop has large bags)

Gardening in pots? (scratch in) 1/4 cup of mix in top 3" of each 4 gallon pot.

HARDENING OFF:

This is the process of hardening off, or gradually acclimating your [tomato](#) seedlings to outdoor conditions. These plants have spent their short lives in a warm, sunny, protected place and won't fare well if you don't expose them slowly to the elements.

A few days before you're ready to begin hardening plants off, reduce amount of water you give them, and cease fertilizing until they are planted in the garden.

About 10 days before you intend to plant, put your transplants outdoors in an area where they'll be protected from the direct sunlight and wind. Leave them out for a few hours and bring them back inside. Repeat this each day, gradually increasing the amount of time they're outside and the degree of exposure to sun and wind. After a week or so, leave the transplants out overnight. If frost threatens, bring them indoors.

If you harden off your plants properly, they'll be strong and able to withstand full sun, strong breezes, and all the challenges they'll meet in the garden.

