



# TOMATOES

## ABOUT TOMATOES

Tomatoes come in two types determinate and indeterminate. Determinate tomatoes are also called bush tomatoes. They are suited to growing in pots and containers as they only grow to a certain height. Their fruit ripens all at the same time and then the plant dies. Some determinate tomatoes require staking but many do not making them ideal for those who have limited space for a garden.

Indeterminate tomatoes are also called vining tomatoes and the plants can grow very tall- staking is advised. They will grow and produce fruit until frosts kill them - they will produce fruit throughout the growing season.

Tomato seed is small so you will get a lot of seedlings out of one packet of seed. It is best to plant the seed in seedling trays before transplanting into the garden. Plant seeds in early September. Once the seedlings have developed some leaves you can put them into individual pots for planting out around late October depending on your climate. Tomatoes are frost sensitive.

## GROWING TIPS

A warm sheltered position with lots of sun is essential. Determinate varieties are good for containers indeterminate are not as a general rule (some exceptions).

Try to keep the fruit and leaves off the ground as the plant grows to avoid disease.

Tomatoes like potash and chicken manure.

Watering and feeding tomato plants is not necessary until flowering begins (obviously if it doesn't rain for weeks prior to flowering you will have to water the plants occasionally).

After flowering water and feed regularly.

Grit (crushed oyster shells) is also good for tomatoes. Remove laterals on indeterminate tomatoes as they appear - these are new bits of growth that appear between the main stem and the main shoots.

## ONES TO TRY

There are hundreds of varieties of tomatoes, from tiny cherry tomatoes to huge beefsteak types. Why not try a few different varieties every year.

**TUMBLING TOMS** - creamy coloured, plum shaped and very sweet

**OXHEART** - a large, dark skinned variety

**GARDENERS DELIGHT** - popular for its abundance of sweet fruit

**BRANDYWINE** - masses of cherry-sized fruits ideal for salads

**PURPLE RUSSIAN** - a classic beefsteak tomato

**MONEYMAKER** - a classic beefsteak tomato

**ROMA** - a classic beefsteak tomato

**GROSSE LISSE?** - a classic beefsteak tomato

