

Tomato Plant Q&A

Q: How much should I water my tomato plant?

You can water your tomato plant 2-3 times a week (if it rains that counts). Make sure to water slowly it at the base of the plant, the leaves can burn in the sun if they are wet. Be sure to water your plant about an hour before replanting into the ground or into a pot.

Q: When can I plant my tomato plant in the ground?

You will want to check the last frost date in your area and then wait 10-12 days after that before planting your tomato in the ground. Also check that overnight temperatures are consistently at or over 50 degrees. Tomatoes do not like to be cold! In our area, around Memorial Day is usually a good time to transfer tomato plants into the ground. Tomato plants need 6-8 hours of sunlight a day, but try to plant on a cloudy day to lessen the shock of transitioning the plant into the hot sun. Plant your tomato deeper in the ground. You may need to remove a few bottom leaves, but this will ensure good root development.

Q: Can I put my tomato plant in a pot?

You can definitely put your tomato plant in a pot. Potted plants are great for patios or if you have outdoor space but not necessarily a garden. You will want to choose a larger pot so that the tomato plants roots can spread and fill the pot with potting soil. The pot should also have one or more drainage holes in the bottom. Plant your tomato deeper (usually up the first set of leaves) in the pot to ensure good root development and position the pot so that it can get 6-8 hours of full sun a day.

Q: Should I put a stake near my tomato plant?

It is a good idea to support your tomato plant with a stake or a tomato cage. Because it is a vine, it may want something to cling to and grow up, and as the tomatoes grow, they will be heavy and may need that support. If you use a stake, you may want to carefully tie the plant to the stake as it grows.

Q: Why are my tomato plant's leaves are turning yellow?

Don't panic! If the leaves of your tomato plant are turning yellow, it may not be anything to worry about, but you may want to pay attention to the amount you are watering them. Too much or too little water could be the reason. If the yellowing leaves are at the bottom of the plant, it could be a lack of sunlight simply because they are on the bottom. You can remove these lower yellowing leaves if you wish.

Q: When will I get to eat the tomatoes?

Good things come to those who wait! Tomatoes will be ready 60-80 days after planting. That will be late July and August. Tomatoes that are ready to be picked are an even red color and will pull off the vine easily when given a gentle twist.

Source for tomato plant care: <http://www.tomatodirt.com/>

*Thank you for participating in the
virtual **tomato** program from the Auburn Public Library!*