

Fact Sheet

Tomatoes

Tomatoes are one of the most widely grown vegetables today. They thrive in warm weather but are susceptible to frost. They will yield more per space occupied than any other vegetable.

The old Hobart adage of planting after Showday is still fairly accurate, however any time in October should be okay.

Allow about 50cm between plants. Plant to a deeper level than they are in the pot as this will encourage more feeding roots. Bush varieties require no pruning. Staking varieties need to be pruned to leave three leaders remaining to carry the fruit. Remove laterals to allow for better fruiting, these grow from the junction between the leaf and the stem.

The planting area should be sunny, well drained and protected from winds and frost. Soil high in organic matter such as mushroom compost, or sheep manure is ideal. Regular even watering is vital as irregularity can cause poor or cracked fruit. Leaves which are left on the bush will protect the fruit from scorching during the height of Summer sun. Remember heat, not sun ripens the fruit.

For smaller gardens Tomatoes can be grown very well in large pots. Stoneman's Premium potting mix is recommended.

When plants start to flower, fertilise with a high potash tomato food such as Yates Lush. Liquid feed regularly during the growing season.

Pick tomatoes when fruit not fully ripe, and let ripen on window sill. Once weather cools in Autumn pull out bush with any fruit on still, and hang it upside down to continue the ripening process.



Tomatoes grow better if planted beside parsley, asparagus, chives or carrots. On the other hand potatoes, kohlrabi and fennel are antagonistic and will retard growth.



Tomatoes are native to South America and have been used by the Indians of Peru and Mexico for centuries. When introduced to England in the 16th Century they were used mainly for ornamental purposes.

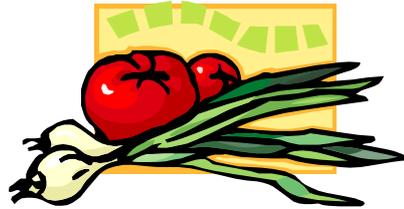
Popular varieties include:

Bush

KY1 - Old fashioned field tomato.

First Prize - Sturdy bush fruits mid season.

Roma - Acid free oval shaped



Semi-Bush

Rouge de Marmande - Early maturing ideal for Tassie conditions.

Burkes Backyard - Popular new variety.

Rouge de Marmande produces fruit at lower temperatures than other varieties.

Staking

Grosse Lisse - Old fashioned large globe shaped fruit.

Apollo - Large fleshy juicy fruit.

Sweet Bite - Cherry tomatoes, profuse fruiting.

Money Maker - Very productive, medium fleshy fruit.

Moonshot - Vigorous and early fruiting.

Mellow Yellow - Large yellow fruit, excellent for salads.

Bragger - Large flat fruit, disease resistant.

Early Girl - Popular old fashioned juicy variety.

