

# 10 TIPS FOR TERRIFIC TOMATOES

## 1. CROP ROTATION – CHOOSE A GOOD LOCATION

Pick a sunny location, where tomatoes (or other Solanaceae family vegetables) have not been grown for 3 years. If you run out of space, use planter bags, pots or straw bales.

## 2. SOIL PREPARATION – 2-4 WEEKS BEFORE PLANTING, APPLY TO YOUR SOIL:

- 1) Compost 50 mm deep
- 2) Manure 25 mm deep
- 3) Slow release pelletized organic fertiliser at 1-2 handfuls per m<sup>2</sup>
- 4) A sprinkle of blood and bone per m<sup>2</sup>
- 5) For clay soil, 1-2 kg/m<sup>2</sup> gypsum
- 6) For sandy soil, 3-5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> bentonite clay

Dig all of this through or distribute it with a broad fork. Vegan gardeners, use numbers 1 and 5 or 6 as appropriate, then use green manures, rock dust and weed teas.

## 3. SPACING – DON'T CROWD YOUR PLANTS!

Space vining tomato plants 1 m apart, space dwarf tomato plants 50 cm apart.

## 4. VARIETIES – SO MANY TO CHOOSE FROM!

Choose the right variety for your garden and climate: choose quick producing varieties for areas with a short growing season; try some Australian-bred dwarf tomatoes for raised garden beds, which are not suitable for most vining or tall growing tomatoes.

## 5. COMPANION PLANTING

Keep your tomato plants happy with some friends such as Basil, Nettle for vigour, Borage and Parsley to improve taste, French marigolds, and mustards to deter root nematodes.

## 6. PROMOTE FRUITING

When plants start flowering, sprinkle a pinch of blood & bone around each plant to promote fruiting and flowering.

## 7. WATERING AND MULCHING

Keep soil moisture and temperature levels stable by watering the root zone regularly and by mulching with 50 mm deep straw, to avoid fruits splitting and cracking. Always water the base of the plants, avoiding overhead watering.

## 8. MAINTENANCE KEEPS PLANTS HEALTHIER

Remove dead leaves, stake plants, tie in branches regularly, prune out extra growth to keep good airflow.

## 9. SEED-RAISING – CHECK OUT OUR VIDEO!

Make your own greenhouse from a repurposed foam fruit box. Use the QR code below to check out our video for some great tips for growing your own seedlings cheaply.

## 10. TOMATO - KNOW SOW GROW FEAST

Buy your own tomato growing and eating resource with colourful recipes, a comprehensive pest & disease section, and over 220 heirloom varieties described – BUY [here](#)

### Best Flavour

- Wild Fred – Dwarf plant
- Pink Berkeley Tie-Dye
- Tommy Toe (cherry)

### Best Cherry Tomatoes

- Barry's Crazy Yellow
- Riesentraube
- Blue Berries
- Kurrajong

### Grow a rainbow!

- Green Zebra
- Gondwana Moon
- Jaune Flamme
- Thai Pink
- Zebra Zeppelin
- Rouge de Marmande, Peron, Grosse Lisse
- Gondwana Thunder

### Fruit Fly resistant

- Wapsipinicon Peach
- Cherry tomatoes
- Gondwana varieties

