



Tomatoes

Written by New Castle County Master Gardener Rick Judd

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General Information

- Scientific Name: Lycopersicon lycopersicum
 - **o Family**: Solanaceae
- Warm season
- Planting Window:
 - Start seeds indoors, under lights in mid-March 8 weeks prior to transplanting around mid-May
- pH = 5.5-7.5
- **Spacing**: one plant will fit in a 5-gallon container
- Check moisture frequently to make sure plant does not dry out
- Work one trowel-full of 4-6-6 fertilizer into hole before transplanting
- **Tip**: support plants with cages to keep them upright!

Successful Cultivators

- Hornworm inspect leaves and plant umbellifereae herbs
- Mulch with plastic layer or grass clippings to prevent splash when watering
- Disease-resistant cultivars can be planted as well

Common Pests and Diseases

- Patio F Hybrid (70 days)
- Bush Champion II Hybrid (65 days)
- Bush Early Girl Hybrid (65 days)

Tomato photos courtesy of Rick Judd







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