

Tomato

Solanum lycopersicum · Nightshade family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Annual (tender perennial), seedling
MATURITY 60–100 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Deep, consistent



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



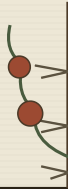
SPACING
45–60cm



DEPTH
deep — bury
lower stem

01 Stake early

Tomatoes are heavy, floppy plants once loaded with fruit. Stake or cage at planting time, not later — disturbing roots after the plant is established sets it back.



staked and loosely tied as it grows

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant seedlings deep, burying part of the stem — buried stem grows extra roots.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained, high organic matter.
TIMING	Plant after frost risk passes and nights are reliably mild.

04 Problems

- **Blight** — dark leaf and stem lesions in humid weather; improve airflow, avoid overhead watering.
- **Blossom end rot** — irregular watering or calcium deficiency; keep watering steady.
- **Fruit fly** — net or bag ripening fruit.
- **Splitting** — heavy rain after a dry spell; mulch to even out soil moisture.

03 Growing care

- Stake or cage at planting.
- Water deeply at the base — wet leaves invite fungal disease.
- Remove lower leaves touching soil and side shoots on staked varieties.
- Feed with a potassium-rich fertiliser once fruiting begins.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full colour, slight give when gently squeezed.
METHOD	Twist or cut from the vine, leaving the calyx attached.
CURING	None needed — ripen on a windowsill if picked slightly early.
STORAGE	Room temperature for best flavour, used within a week. Never refrigerate.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Basil

Carrot

Marigold

Asparagus

AVOID NEARBY

Potato

Fennel

Brassicas

ROTATION NOTE

Avoid following other nightshades for 2–3 years.