

## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full to part sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Not winter hardy. Will thrive from spring to fall in all zones.
PLANT TYPE	Annual.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 3 feet apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 16-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	3 or more feet tall with a similar spread.
BLOOM TIME	Summer to frost.

### DAYS TO MATURITY

Days to maturity indicates the average number of days from transplanting until the first mature fruits are ready to harvest. Though days to maturity can vary based on environmental factors, most varieties fit into the following designations:

**Early** - 55 to 65 days after transplanting.

**Mid-season** - 65 to 80 days after transplanting.

**Late** - over 80 days after transplanting.

### DETERMINATE / INDETERMINATE

**Determinate** varieties grow to a specific size, then begin setting fruit. Most of the crop will be produced in a relatively short time span and the tomatoes can usually be harvested in two to five pickings.

**Indeterminate** varieties are vigorous growers that produce fruit until the first frost. Tomatoes from indeterminate plants are usually available for picking throughout the growing season.

**3-N-1 Little Birdy:** Determinate. Early season.

**Abraham Lincoln:** Indeterminate. Late season.

**Cherokee Purple:** Indeterminate. Late season.

**Genuwine:** Indeterminate. Mid-season.

**Gold Medal:** Indeterminate. Mid-season.

**Kentucky Beefsteak:** Indeterminate. Late season.

**Mortgage Lifter:** Indeterminate. Late season.

**Pink Oxheart:** Indeterminate. Mid-season.

**Pruden's Purple:** Indeterminate. Mid-season.

**Rapunzel:** Indeterminate. Mid-season.

**San Marzano:** Indeterminate. Mid-season.

# Thank you for your order!

### PLANT WARRANTY

We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reshipe the following shipping season.

If you have any questions or concerns about your order, please contact us at 888-593-3644 or [help@cottagefarmdirect.com](mailto:help@cottagefarmdirect.com).

**Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of the plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.**

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless, but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.  
1-800-222-1222**

# TOMATOES



\*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

## OUT OF THE BOX

### TOMATOES

Your plants have been shipped to you in pots. We urge you to remove them from the shipping box and plant them as soon as possible. Should planting be delayed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, roll the plastic bag down around each plant and place them near a bright window or other sunny location. Keep them well-watered in their pots until permanently planted. Once planted, they begin setting roots and, as the weather warms, begin showing new growth. Please plant as soon as possible, provide reasonable care and be patient.

The foliage on potted plants may appear slightly wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is usually nothing to worry about. Water the plant thoroughly, place it in a shady location and remove any foliage that does not recover.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

### PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

**Important:** Thoroughly hydrate the plant by submersing the root zone in a container of water for 10 minutes while you prepare for planting.

1. Remove and discard the clear plastic bag from around the pot.
2. After watering, remove the pot by holding the plant upside down in one hand and squeezing the sides of the pot with the other.
3. Prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. This will encourage the roots to begin growing outward into the new soil.
4. Dig a hole at least twice as deep and twice as wide as the plant's root ball. Tomatoes are a rare exception where planting deeply is beneficial. Plant each tomato where only 3-5 inches of the stem is above the soil line. Tall tomato plants can be planted on their side in a trench with the tops bent upward. Refill the hole or trench with soil, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers.
5. Water thoroughly.

## CONTINUING CARE

WATERING	<p>Adequate and consistent watering is essential for tomatoes. Inconsistent watering or soils that do not hold water evenly can cause problems with fruit development.</p> <p>Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. You may need to water as often as every day in periods of drought and extreme summer heat.</p> <p>Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.</p>
STAKING & CAGING	<p>Tomatoes can be supported by staking or by using tomato cages. To stake tomatoes, drive a wooden, plastic or metal stake into the ground 3-6 inches from the base of each plant at planting time. As the plants grow, attach them to the stake using plant ties, taking care to avoid damaging the stems. Selective pruning helps keep the plants manageable, but is not necessary for fruit production.</p> <p>Alternately, place a tomato cage around each plant at planting time and press the legs into the ground. A small stake may be placed in the ground on each side of the cage to help keep it upright, particularly in windy areas. The plant will support itself on the cage as it grows and should need no pruning.</p>
FEEDING	<p>To maximize the growth and performance of your plants, feed them with a water soluble fertilizer for fruits and vegetables once every 2 to 3 weeks during the growing season.</p>
MULCHING	<p>Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.</p>
HARVESTING	<p>Tomatoes are ready to be harvested once they have changed from green to red, yellow, orange or purple, depending on the variety. Store freshly picked tomatoes at room temperature out of direct sunlight. To preserve flavor and texture, avoid refrigerating fresh tomatoes. Do not consume any other part of the plant.</p>

## CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

WINTERIZING	<p>Tomatoes are tender annuals that cannot tolerate any frost or freezing temperatures. In the event of a late spring frost, protect young plants by covering them overnight with a sheet, frost blanket or an inverted bucket or box. Remove any material used to cover the plants the following morning. Plants in containers should be moved into a protected area on exceptionally cold nights. The plants should be discarded when they have finished fruiting at the end of the season.</p>
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### TIPS FROM MASTER GARDENERS

#### COMMON TOMATO PROBLEMS AND REMEDIES

**Blossom End Rot:** This condition develops due to a lack of calcium. It can be caused by a calcium deficiency in the soil, or a moisture shortage while fruit is forming. During a moisture shortage, cells in developing fruits are deprived of calcium, causing some of them to die. As the fruit matures, a dry, leathery depression appears on the blossom side. Have your soil tested regularly to determine if it needs additional calcium. Provide uniform watering, use mulch under and around the plants and protect them for drying winds.

**Catfacing:** Catfacing is signified by irregular scarring, puckering and deformation, usually toward the top of the fruit. It is caused by temperature fluctuations and incomplete pollination at flowering time. This condition is only cosmetic and does not affect the flavor of the tomato. It will correct itself as conditions improve.

**Cracking:** Cracking occurs when soil moisture fluctuates as fruits are developing. After a heavy rainstorm or watering after a period of drought, the tomato skin becomes unable to accommodate the extra moisture and responds by cracking or splitting. To prevent this, maintain a regular watering schedule and use mulch under and around the plants. Fruits that have begun to crack are still edible and should be picked right away.

**Flower Drop / No Fruit:** This problem can occur during periods of unusually high daytime or low nighttime temperatures. Hot, drying winds can intensify the problem. Under these conditions, flowers may drop before developing into fruit. Blossom set sprays help to reduce spring blossom drop, but have little effect during high temperatures. This problem typically disappears as the weather improves.

**Leaf Roll:** Curling or rolling of leaves occurs during hot weather, after soil cultivation or after severe pruning. Older and lower leaves of some tomato varieties may roll, becoming stiff and leathery. This is not a disease and does not negatively affect the plants. Keep the plants well-watered, take care when cultivating the soil and avoid severe pruning.