

Cheat Sheet for Growing Tomatoes



General Information

Choose a sunny location that receives at least eight hours of sunlight each day.

Tomato companion plant with a purpose:

Basil helps improve the flavor of tomatoes.

Fertilization & Soil Requirements

To achieve the best yield when growing tomatoes, it all starts with amending the soil to make it rich in organic material and manure.

Sandy Soils

2/3 Fafard Organic Potting Soil and **1/3 Stout Ollie Compost**.

Add **1/2 cup Hydrated Lime** per plant.

If your soil already has plenty of organic material, add approximately 3 shovels of **Stout Ollie Compost** (1 bag added to existing organic matter should be enough for 3 plants).

Clay Soils

Plant with **2/3 Fafard Organic Potting Mix** and **1/2 Stout Ollie Compost**.

Add **1 1/3 cup of Gypsum** to each **2 sq. ft.** of soil for each plant. Gypsum is a natural mineral (Calcium) that can help fight blossom end rot.

Planting

When planting your tomatoes it is important to supply them with the necessary general nutrients that they need for healthy growth and production of plump and juicy fruit.

Mix 3 Tbsp. of Espoma Organic Garden Tone into the soil when planting.

When putting your tomato plants in the ground, **ALWAYS** plant 1/3 to 1/2 of the existing stem beneath the soil level (do not do this with other vegetable plants); if need, you can gently bend part of the stem, horizontally in the ground. All the stem in the soil will develop roots.

IMPORTANT: Be sure to cut all the leaves off the stem that is planted in the soil.

Always give the tomato plant a thorough watering with **Root Stimulator** immediately after you have finished planting it. Add **3 1/2 Tbsp. of Root Stimulator/gallon** of water.

Mulching

To prevent the soil from rapidly drying out, **cover the soil with 3 inches of hardwood mulch** (not pine straw).

Watering

Keep soil around tomatoes **EVENLY MOIST**, not soggy. Extreme fluctuations in watering will cause insufficient calcium intake (which occurs daily) and problems may occur.

Feeding

For ongoing feeding apply **Tomato Tone or Garden Tone** after plants are well established and then once a month during the growing .

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Fertilization & Soil Requirements

Tomatoes require a blend of good organic material and manure. To achieve this, fill your container With **2/3 Fafard Organic Potting Mix** and **1/3 Stout Ollie Compost**.

It is important to supply your tomatoes with the necessary general nutrients they need for healthy growth and production of plump and juicy fruit. Mix **3 Tbsp. of Espoma Organic Garden Tone** into the soil when planting.

Planting

To help your plants become strong, produce bountiful blossoms and fight blossom end rot, add 1 cup of **Bone Meal or Gypsum** (Calcium) to each planting hole. Magnesium is used to help the plant absorb bone meal. Mix 1 Tablespoon of **Epsom Salt** per gallon of water at bloom time and again towards the middle of the fruiting season.

When planting your tomato plant, ALWAYS plant 1/3 to 1/2 of the existing stem beneath the soil level; if need to, you can gently bend the stem and have a portion of the stem planted horizontally. The portion of the stem in the soil will develop roots. IMPORTANT: Be sure to cut all of the leaves off the stem that is planted in the soil.

Always give the tomato plant a thorough watering with **Root Stimulator** immediately after you have finished planting it. Add 3 1/2 Tablespoons of **Root Stimulator** per gallon of water.

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To prevent the soil from drying out rapidly, cover the soil with 3 inches of **hardwood mulch** (not pine straw).

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Keep soil around tomatoes **EVENLY MOIST, not soggy**. Extreme fluctuations in watering will cause insufficient calcium intake (which occurs daily) and problems may occur.

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