



## How to Plant Tomatoes

The tomato is a warm-season crop. Do not transplant until the soil is warm and danger of frost is past.

To produce good yields of high-quality fruits, you must

use adapted varieties, fertilize well, and control weeds, insects, and diseases. Recommended varieties are listed in Pamphlet 607, *Suggested Vegetable Varieties for 1975*.



1. Prepare the planting hole by loosening the soil thoroughly. This produces deep roots. For unstaked tomatoes, space plants 3 to 4 feet apart; staked tomatoes, 18 to 24 inches apart.

2. When transplanting, use a complete fertilizer such as 5-10-5 or 6-10-4, unless a soil test shows that another ratio is needed. Mix 2 tablespoons with the soil in the hole. Fertilizer must not come in contact with the roots.



3. Do not break the soil ball when removing the plant from the container. If plants are in peat pots they need not be removed, but they should be soaked in water just before planting. The top edge should also be removed back to top of soil ball.

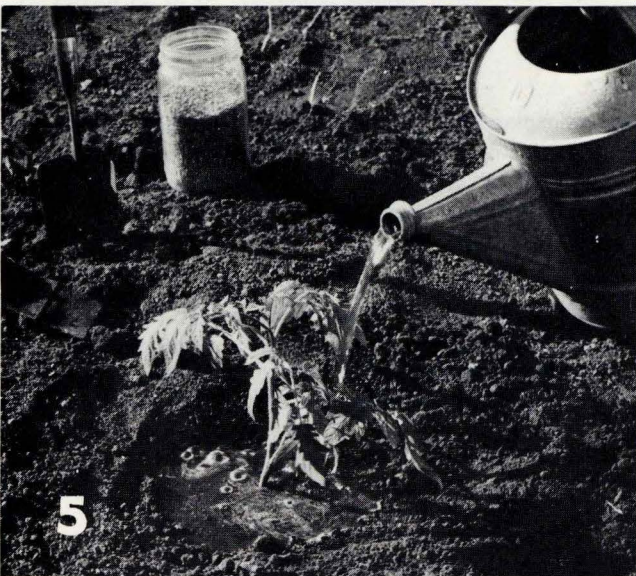
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4. Firm the soil around the plant. Leave a saucerlike depression to hold water.



5. Give each plant 1 or 2 cups of water. You may prepare a liquid starter fertilizer by adding 2 tablespoons of a complete fertilizer (see step 2) to each gallon of water.

6. To conserve moisture and improve yield, use a summer mulch. Place mulch around plants 4 or 5 weeks after planting. Straw, hay or black plastic is good. Use dried grass clippings only if the lawn has not been treated with 2,4-D or similar weed killers. Mulching also reduces damage from blossom end rot.

7. To grow tomatoes like these, use adapted varieties and give them proper care.

**References:**

Pm-230 Insects and Diseases in the Family Vegetable Garden

Pm-238 The Home Vegetable Garden

Pm-610 Fusarium Wilt of Tomato



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