

Beefsteak Tomato

Meaty, bright red and juicy this classic, flat-round beefsteak tomato has rich, subtly acidic, traditional tomato flavor and is great on sandwiches, burgers and salads. The vigorous vines produce high yields of large, slightly ribbed fruits all season, and need to be staked.

Indeterminate.

- Open Pollinated
- Size: 4 feet plant, 10-20 oz. fruit
- Hardiness: Tender Annual
- Easy to Grow: Yes
- Sun: Full
- Water: Moderate
- Seed Planting Depth: 0.25"
- Days to Germination: 7-14 days
- Plant spacing within a row: 18"-24"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Tomatoes are best started indoors 4-6 weeks before your last frost date. Plant seeds ¼ inch deep and keep evenly moist. Optimum soil temperature is 70-90°F, which can be achieved with a heating mat. After 6-14 days, place new seedlings in a sunny window and fertilize every 2 weeks. Harden off your seedlings before planting by placing them outdoors during the day and bringing inside at night. Transplant 18-24 inches apart in rows that are 36-60 inches apart

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Tomatoes are frost sensitive, warm season plants that grow best in full sun and like fertile, well drained, loamy soils. Tomatoes are heavy feeders, so prepare planting area with decomposed compost and a general purpose organic fertilizer. Soil that is low in phosphorus and potassium can be amended with rock phosphate and greensand. To prevent blossom end rot, add bone meal, oyster shell flour or crushed eggshells to the planting holes. Deeper, less frequent watering encourages deep rooting for better drought tolerance and tastier

fruits.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Tomatoes are susceptible to many diseases, including Early Blight (*Alternaria*), Late Blight (*Phytophthora*), Septoria Leaf Spot, Bacterial Spot, Speck and Canker, and soilborne fungal diseases such as *Verticillium* and *Fusarium* Wilt. When possible, choose disease resistant varieties, use a minimum three year rotation cycle, use drip irrigation to minimize wet foliage, mulch to prevent soil from splashing on to leaves during rain storms, stake vines, orient rows to increase air circulation and compost or turn under all crop debris at the end of each season. Tomato hornworms can be hand-picked or controlled with *Bacillus thuringiensis* sprays (Dipel). Plant flowers and insectary plants around the borders or within your garden to attract beneficial insects to control harmful pests naturally.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Tomatoes generally ripen 6-8 weeks after fruit set. Tomatoes will continue to mature even after they have been harvested. Harvest fully ripe fruits when they have full color but are still firm. Many varieties pull off easily when ripe, while some heirlooms need to be cut from the vine. To harvest for later use or to sell at market, pick when fruits have 50-75% color and are still firm, they will ripen in a few days. For best flavor, keep tomatoes on the kitchen counter, not in the refrigerator

Blue Lake Bush Bean

Highly regarded for exceptional taste and tenderness, this 1961 All-America Selections winner remains widely popular for its high yields of sweet, round, stringless beans on vigorous plants. The beans meaty texture makes them a great choice for canning and freezing too.

- Open Pollinated
- Size: 15 inches, 6 -7 inch pods
- Disease Resistant: Bean Common Mosaic Virus
- Hardiness: Tender Annual
- Easy to Grow: Yes
- Sun: Full/Partial
- Water: Ample
- Seed Planting Depth: 0.50"
- Days to Germination: 6-10 days
- Plant spacing within a row: 2"-4"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Always direct-seed beans. Plant in late spring when danger of frost has passed and soils have warmed. Germination is best at 70–85°F. Inoculate seed with Rhizobium bacteria prior to planting to enhance nitrogen availability. Plant seeds ½ to 1 inch deep, 2-3 inches apart, 18-30 inches between rows. Water well just once at planting time to avoid seed rot. After the seedlings emerge (6–12 days) keep moderately moist, allowing the soil to dry out a bit between waterings. Avoid water-stress during bloom and pod set.

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Beans are a frost-sensitive, warm-season crop. They grow best on well drained, loamy soils with a pH between 5.8 and 6.5. Amend planting area with compost, phosphorus and potassium.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Seed rot and seedling disease due to damping-off pathogens may be a problem in cool soils. Shallow plantings into 60°F or warmer soils will reduce risk of seedling disease. Avoid or minimize potentially devastating White Mold by practicing crop rotation and irrigating early in the day to allow drying of foliage. Bacterial blights of beans can be controlled through crop rotation and composting of crop debris. Encourage beneficial insect activity by planting cilantro and other umbels nearby to help control the many kinds of insect pests that love beans. Spray with pyrethrins and neem oil as a last resort to control heavy infestations. Seed late in the season and release *Pediobius foveolatus* wasps for suppression of Mexican bean beetles.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Harvest fresh snap beans when plump, but before they become lumpy and tough. Pick frequently to encourage more production. Harvest fresh shelling beans when the seeds are full size, but before the pods dry. Harvest dry beans when 75% of the leaves have yellowed and the pods have begun to dry. Pull the entire plant and dry either in the field on a tarp, or move indoors to dry in wet fall areas. Thresh by beating the dry plants with a flail or length of bamboo.

Cal Wonder Red Bell Pepper

These sweet, juicy, classic 3-4" bell peppers are excellent fresh, roasted, sautéed or stuffed, and freeze well for later use. Fruits ripen early from dark green-to-red on vigorous, upright plants. Harvest the early fruits green to stimulate additional fruit set for red ripe harvest.

- Heirloom (Open Pollinated)
- Size: 12 -18 inches plants, 3 -4 inch fruit
- Hardiness: Tender Annual
- Sun: Full/Partial
- Water: Moderate
- Seed Planting Depth: 0.25"
- Days to Germination: 10-14 days
- Plant spacing within a row: 12"-18"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Peppers are most often started indoors and transplanted due to the relative difficulty of starting them successfully. Peppers are highly susceptible to fungal diseases that can be in the soil, so be sure to use a sterile, peat moss based seed starting mix. Optimum germination occurs at 75–85°F soil temperature, which can be provided by our seedling heat mat. Plant seeds in starter trays 1/4 inch deep and keep the soil evenly moist without waterlogging. Peppers typically take 10-14 days to germinate. Transfer into 2-4 inch pots if necessary. Harden off seedlings for 7-10 days before transplanting, but do not expose them to temperatures below 55°F. Transplant 8-12 week old seedlings outside, 4 weeks after the last spring frost, when daytime temperatures reach 70°F and nighttime temperatures are above 55°F. Space plants 12-18 inches apart, allowing 24-36 inches between rows.

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Peppers are a warm season crop and grow best with warm nights, which increase flower and fruit set. Fruit set in many sweet peppers can be low at temperatures over 90°F, but most chile peppers are more heat tolerant. Production is best in fertile, well drained soils with a pH of 6–6.8. Ensure adequate calcium availability and avoid wide fluctuations in moisture to prevent blossom end rot. In cooler climates, cover seedlings with floating row cover for extra warmth, but remove prior to flowering. Isolate hot and sweet peppers to prevent cross-

pollination, which can result in heat in sweet varieties. Hotter growing conditions increase heat in chile peppers. Plants may need to be trellised or supported in favorable warm climates.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Use disease resistant varieties or Serenade, an OMRI-approved resistance-stimulator, to control Bacterial Leaf Spot (BLS) in humid climates. Incidence of this and other diseases can be reduced by using drip irrigation and mulches, ensuring adequate air flow through increased plant spacing, and staking or supporting plants, if necessary. Practice 3-4 year crop rotations with all Solanaceae species (tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, potatoes) to manage soilborne pathogens such as Fusarium and Verticillium Wilts. Use floating row covers to prevent insect damage, but remove prior to flowering or in hot weather. Plant peppers in double rows and/or next to a taller crop that shades them in the afternoon to reduce sunburn on fruits.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Harvest when fruits are full grown, firm and crisp. They can be consumed when green or fully ripened to their final color. Snap fruits off by hand, being careful not to break branches or damage plants. Harvest frequently to encourage additional fruit set. Store in the refrigerator.

Cherry Radish

A tasty, 1–2 inches round, brilliant red radish with crisp white flesh that is perfect for refreshing salads. This 1949 All America Selections winner is tolerant of poor soils, retains tenderness, and resists pithiness. It can be succession planted and harvested all summer long.

- Open Pollinated
- Size: 1 -2 inch root
- Hardiness: Hardy Annual
- Easy to Grow: Yes
- Sun: Full/Partial
- Water: Moderate
- Seed Planting Depth: 0.50"
- Days to Germination: 4-8 days
- Plant spacing within a row: 2"-3"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Radishes are direct seeded and do not transplant well. Use our Planting Guide to determine seed depth, spacing and rates.

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Radishes are a cool or moderate climate crop susceptible to bolting in long days or high temperatures. They are best grown on light, fertile soils with a pH of 6.5–7. They are tolerant of a broad range of soils, but heavy soils may produce misshapen, hairy roots. Keep evenly moist for best quality roots.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Practice 2–4 year crop rotations with all Brassicaceae species. Cover plants with floating row covers to prevent flea beetle damage to tops.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Harvest when roots reach full size, but before they split or become pithy. A light irrigation the day prior to harvest may improve ease of pulling roots. Cool radishes immediately after harvest. Market in bunches (6–9 radishes/bunch) or store at 32°F and 95–100% RH.

Dark Star Zucchini

These deep dark green zucchinis with solid texture and mild flavor are perfect sautéed in butter, grilled or freshly sliced in salads. The big, tall plants have smooth, spineless stalks and a large root system for drought tolerance. Plant just once to harvest all summer long.

- Open Pollinated
- Size: 4 feet bush, 6 -8 inch fruit
- Hardiness: Tender Annual
- Easy to Grow: Yes
- Sun: Full
- Water: Moderate
- Seed Planting Depth: 0.50"
- Days to Germination: 7-12 days
- Plant spacing within a row: 18"-24"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Squash are most commonly direct seeded, although transplanting is possible in short season areas. Optimum soil temperature for germination is 70-85°F, but seeds will germinate at temperatures as low as 60°F. Direct seed 2-3 weeks after the last spring frost when weather is warm and settled. Plant seed 1 inch deep, 3 seeds grouped together every 18-24 inches, allowing 24-36 inches between rows for squash; or 24-36 inches apart and 36-60 inches between rows for pumpkins. Thin to one plant per spot. To start indoors, fill 4 inch pots with a sterile seed starting mix. Plant 2 seeds per pot and thin to one plant by snipping off the weaker seedling at the soil level. Harden-off seedlings for 5-7 days prior to transplanting. Squash do not like having their roots disturbed, so transplant 3-4 week old seedlings outside carefully after the last frost.

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Squash and pumpkins are frost sensitive, heat loving crops. They grow best on well drained, fertile soils with a pH between 6.0-7.5. Supply consistent moisture with drip irrigation to

reduce mildew and other foliar diseases. For winter squash and pumpkins, reduce watering as fruits near maturity.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Practice 3 year crop rotations among all Cucurbit family crops (cucumbers, melons and squash). Foliar diseases such as Powdery and Downy Mildew, Alternaria Blight, and Angular Leaf Spot can be minimized by using drip irrigation and mulching to minimize splash-dispersal of spores. Spray young seedlings with insecticidal soap, pyrethrins and neem oil, or cover with floating row cover, to prevent cucumber beetle damage and the bacterial wilts they can vector, but uncover plants during flowering for pollination. Control aphids to prevent mosaic virus. Squash Vine Borers can be 'surgically' removed from the stems. At the first sign of wilt, look for the sawdust-like 'frass' at the entry hole and cut parallel to the stem to extract and crush the worm. Use a twist tie to loosely seal the wound, bury the stem, and hope the plant survives. See our merchandise section for related products.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Summer Squash: Harvest when fruit is 6-8 inches long by cutting from the plant with a knife. Pick frequently and remove all oversized fruit to encourage additional fruit production.

Pumpkins: Cut from the vines leaving a 3-4 inch long stem when the fruits have turned orange and the skin has hardened. Winter Squash: Harvest when vines have begun to die back and fruit has reached its full size and final color. Cut fruit from vines leaving a 1-2 inch stem for good storage. Store at 50-55°F in a dry place. Bring in before the first frost to avoid chilling damage that reduces storability.

Garden Carrot Mix Details

The best fresh eating orange carrots can be grown from this widely adapted mix of crispy, sweet, cylindrical Nantes types and long elegant Imperator varieties. Deep, loose soil is needed to grow these long beauties. Kids love 'em!

- Open Pollinated
- Size: 6 -12 inch roots
- Hardiness: Hardy Biennial
- Easy to Grow: Yes
- Seed Planting Depth: 0.125000"
- Days to Germination: 7-21 days
- Plant spacing within a row: 1"-2"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Always direct seed carrots. Seed from early spring through summer, sowing fall carrots 80–90 days prior to the first fall frost date. Sow seeds ½ inch apart in a 2 inch wide band, 1/8-1/4 inch deep. Allow 18-24 inches between rows. Water gently so shallow seeds don't wash away. Cover with paper or gauzy fabric for the first week to conserve moisture and prevent soil crusting. Remove as soon as seedlings appear. Thin stand to 1-2 inches apart when seedlings are about 2 inches tall and keep well weeded.

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Always direct seed carrots. Seed from early spring through summer, sowing fall carrots 80–90 days prior to the first fall frost date. Sow seeds ½ inch apart in a 2 inch wide band, 1/8-1/4 inch deep. Allow 18-24 inches between rows. Water gently so shallow seeds don't wash away. Cover with paper or gauzy fabric for the first week to conserve moisture and prevent soil crusting. Remove as soon as seedlings appear. Thin stand to 1-2 inches apart when seedlings are about 2 inches tall and keep well weeded.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Three to four year crop rotations are recommended to avoid Alternaria Leaf Blight, Cercospora Leaf Blight, Downy Mildew, and White Mold. Avoid overwatering to prevent damping-off of seedlings and root diseases for more mature carrots. In areas with heavy carrot rust fly pressure, floating row covers will provide protection. The rust fly can smell the carrots when the foliage is disturbed, so minimize handling and keep the area free of carrot debris. Minimize physical injury of roots prior to storage to prevent post harvest diseases.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Gently brush away the soil around the top of the carrot to see how big it is. Harvest when the roots are at least 1 inch in diameter. Use a digging fork or trowel to loosen the soil around the roots before pulling them or the tops may break off. Wash, remove tops, and place in an open plastic bag to keep fresh in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks. For longer term storage, do not wash the roots. Brush soil off, remove tops, and layer in moist sand or sawdust to keep in the root cellar for up to 6 months. In mild winter areas, carrots can remain in the ground and be harvested as needed.

Genovese Basil

This classic basil has mildly spicy flavor and sweet fragrance fantastic for seasonings, salads, garnishes and pesto. Pick the leaves frequently to encourage bushy new growth for a long harvest season.

- Open Pollinated
- Size: 14 -20 inches
- Disease Resistant: Slow to bolt to seed
- Hardiness: Tender Annual
- Easy to Grow: Yes
- Seed Planting Depth: 0.25"
- Plant spacing within a row: 6"-12"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Basil can be either direct-seeded or transplanted. For direct seeding, plant in late spring when soil temperatures have reached at least 70°F and all danger of frost has passed. Plant 4-6 seeds per row foot, ¼ inch deep, and keep evenly moist. After germination, thin to one plant every 10-12 inches. To start seeds indoors, plant seeds ¼ inch deep in a sterile seed starting mix. Ideal soil temperature for germination is between 70-85 degrees Fahrenheit, which can be adequately provided by a seedling heat mat. Under these conditions basil seeds germinate in 5-10 days.

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Basil is a quick growing, frost sensitive, warm season crop. It grows best in full sun with daytime temperatures from 80–90°F, and 60–75°F at night on well drained fertile, loamy soil with a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. Maintain consistent soil moisture throughout growth. Pinch off flower buds as they emerge to promote bushiness and leaf production. Do not over fertilize as this will decrease the potency of the essential oils. Air temperatures below 38°F will cause leaves to discolor.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Basil is susceptible to a number of damping off organisms such as Pythium, Rhizoctonia and Phytophthora. Avoid overhead irrigation, which creates ideal micro-climates for seedling disease. A major disease issue for commercial growers in high humidity regions is the Fusarium Wilt fungus, which can destroy an entire crop. Genetic resistance is the best defense (see variety descriptions).

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Harvest in the morning after the dew has evaporated but before it gets too hot. For fresh use harvest leaves as needed by cutting just above a node to allow for regrowth. If drying, cut the entire plant at the base and hang to dry immediately after harvest, or spread the leaves out on screens and dry quickly in a dark, dry, well ventilated room. This versatile crop can be used for culinary, medicinal, aromatic, ornamental, and cosmetic purposes.

Marketmore Cucumber

This rightly popular variety is a consistent producer of delicious, mildly sweet cucumbers with dark green, protective skin. The plants are highly disease-resistant and produce over a long season in hot or cool weather. A selection from Marketmore 76.

- Open Pollinated
- Size: 4 -6 feet vine, 6 -8 inches fruit
- Disease Resistant: Virus and Diseases resistant
- Hardiness: Tender Annual
- Easy to Grow: Yes
- Sun: Full/Partial
- Water: Moderate
- Seed Planting Depth: 0.50"
- Days to Germination: 7-10 days
- Plant spacing within a row: 18"-24"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Cucumbers are almost always direct seeded, but can also be started indoors. Direct seed when soil temperatures reach 65–70°F and all danger of frost has passed; ½ to ¾ inch deep, 3 seeds grouped together every 18-24 inches, allowing 36-48 inches between rows. Thin to one plant per spot. To start indoors, fill 4 inch pots with a sterile seed starting mix. Plant 2 seeds per pot and thin to one plant by snipping off the weaker seedling at the soil level. Harden-off seedlings for 5–7 days prior to transplanting. Cucumbers do not like having their roots disturbed, so transplant outside carefully after all danger of frost has passed and weather is warm and settled.

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Cucumbers are a frost sensitive, warm season crop, but since they mature quickly they can be

grown in regions with short summers. They grow best on fertile, light soils with a pH of 5.8–6.7. Drip irrigation is preferable. Asian varieties must be trellised to produce straight fruit.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Practice 3 year crop rotations among all Cucurbit family crops (cucumbers, melons and squash) and choose disease resistant varieties (see product descriptions). Spray young seedlings with insecticidal soap, pyrethrins and neem oil or cover with floating row cover to prevent cucumber beetle damage and the Bacterial Wilt they can vector, but uncover plants during flowering for pollination. Avoid overhead irrigation and mulch to reduce incidence of Powdery and Downy Mildew. Control aphids and use disease resistant varieties to prevent Cucumber Mosaic Virus (CMV). See our merchandise section for related products.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Harvest by cutting fruit from the vines. Keep regularly picked and remove old fruit to encourage continuous fruit set. Cucumbers are best eaten fresh, but may be stored at 50–55°F for about a week. Chilling damage may occur at temperatures below 45°F so cucumbers don't usually keep well in the refrigerator.

Mesclun Lettuce Details

Our own Classic! A potpourri of color, shape, taste, and texture. Harvest a new combination each day. Early greens (Arugula, Osaka Purple mustard, spicy Cress, Red Russian kale, and Très Fin endive) complement an assortment of red and green lettuces.

- Open Pollinated
- Size: 3 - 4 inch baby leaves
- Hardiness: Hardy Annual
- Easy to Grow: Yes
- Sun: Full
- Water: Moderate
- Seed Planting Depth: 0.125000"
- Days to Germination: 3-10 days
- Plant spacing within a row: 1"-2"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Salad mixes are direct seeded. Plant small sections every three weeks for continuous harvests. Sow less frequently during cool spring and fall conditions. Optimum germination occurs at soil temperatures from 60–70°F, but seeds will germinate at as low as 40°F. For best results, sow seeds thickly, about 1" apart from each other, 1/8" deep in 4" wide bands, allowing 6-8 inches between rows to allow weed cultivation; or broadcast seed over a weed-free bed. Salad mix can also be grown to maturity in containers.

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Lettuces and greens are cool season crops and grow best at 60–70°F, but can be planted starting in early spring when daytime temperatures are above 50°F. Optimum growth occurs on well drained, fertile, high organic matter soils with a pH of 6.0–7.5. Brassicas (greens) germinate about twice as fast as the slower growing lettuces, which is why the first flush of Mesclun Mix is predominantly greens that must be cut to allow the lettuces to catch up. In addition, brassicas are a favorite food of small black flea beetles that munch tiny holes in the

leaves. For these reasons, we recommend growing your lettuces and greens separately. Flea beetles can be controlled by covering your greens with floating row cover to exclude them. Lettuces prefer bright full sun to bring out their best colors, so don't need to be covered. Irrigate frequently to provide continuous moisture and cool the soil, but avoid water logging. Use shade cloth when sowing in hot weather.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Downy Mildew is one of the most serious diseases of lettuce, especially in late summer plantings. Lettuce mixes are available with some resistance to this fungal pathogen (see variety descriptions). Encourage beneficial insect activity by planting alyssum nearby to suppress aphid populations. Flea beetles can be controlled by covering your greens with floating row cover from the day of planting to exclude them.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Clear cut leaves about an inch above the growing point to allow for even regrowth. Each planting will regrow a few times depending on the season. Make succession plantings to ensure a constant supply. Cut baby-leaf mixes will keep in the refrigerator for about a week. Wait to wash them until just prior to use to prevent rot. Use a salad spinner to wash and spin dry or pat dry on clean towels.

Red Cherry Tomato

This classic variety produces loads of delicious, juicy red cherry tomatoes that begin ripening early and keep producing all summer, north or south. The vigorous vines need to be staked.

- Open Pollinated
- Size: 6 feet plant, 1 ½ oz. fruits
- Hardiness: Tender Annual
- Easy to Grow: Yes
- Sun: Full/Partial
- Water: Moderate
- Seed Planting Depth: 0.25"
- Days to Germination: 7-14 days
- Plant spacing within a row: 18"-24"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Tomatoes are best started indoors 4-6 weeks before your last frost date. Plant seeds ¼ inch deep and keep evenly moist. Optimum soil temperature is 70-90°F, which can be achieved with a heating mat. After 6-14 days, place new seedlings in a sunny window and fertilize every 2 weeks. Harden off your seedlings before planting by placing them outdoors during the day and bringing inside at night. Transplant 18-24 inches apart in rows that are 36-60 inches apart

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Tomatoes are frost sensitive, warm season plants that grow best in full sun and like fertile, well drained, loamy soils. Tomatoes are heavy feeders, so prepare planting area with decomposed compost and a general purpose organic fertilizer. Soil that is low in phosphorus and potassium can be amended with rock phosphate and greensand. To prevent blossom end rot, add bone meal, oyster shell flour or crushed eggshells to the planting holes. Deeper, less frequent watering encourages deep rooting for better drought tolerance and tastier fruits.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Tomatoes are susceptible to many diseases, including Early Blight (*Alternaria*), Late Blight (*Phytophthora*), Septoria Leaf Spot, Bacterial Spot, Speck and Canker, and soilborne fungal diseases such as *Verticillium* and *Fusarium* Wilt. When possible, choose disease resistant varieties, use a minimum three year rotation cycle, use drip irrigation to minimize wet foliage, mulch to prevent soil from splashing on to leaves during rain storms, stake vines, orient rows to increase air circulation and compost or turn under all crop debris at the end of each season. Tomato hornworms can be hand-picked or controlled with *Bacillus thuringiensis* sprays (Dipel). Plant flowers and insectary plants around the borders or within your garden to attract beneficial insects to control harmful pests naturally.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Tomatoes generally ripen 6-8 weeks after fruit set. Tomatoes will continue to mature even after they have been harvested. Harvest fully ripe fruits when they have full color but are still firm. Many varieties pull off easily when ripe, while some heirlooms need to be cut from the vine. To harvest for later use or to sell at market, pick when fruits have 50-75% color and are still firm, they will ripen in a few days. For best flavor, keep tomatoes on the kitchen counter, not in the refrigerator

Slow Bolt Cilantro Details

This cilantro was specifically bred to allow a longer harvest of the fresh, distinctively flavored leaves that are essential in Mexican and Asian cooking. If left to flower, it attracts beneficial insects and produces the dry seed, known as coriander. Direct seeding is recommended.

- Open Pollinated
- Size: 2 -3 feet
- Hardiness: Hardy Reseeding Annual
- Easy to Grow: Yes
- Sun: Full
- Water: Moderate
- Seed Planting Depth: 0.25"
- Days to Germination: 7-21 days
- Plant spacing within a row: 2"-4"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Cilantro can be either direct-seeded or transplanted. For direct seeding, plant in late spring when soil temperatures have reached at least 70°F and all danger of frost has passed. Plant 4-6 seeds per row foot, ¼ inch deep, and keep evenly moist. After germination, thin to one plant every 10-12 inches. To start seeds indoors, plant seeds ¼ inch deep in a sterile seed starting mix. Ideal soil temperature for germination is between 70-85 degrees Fahrenheit, which can be adequately provided by a seedling heat mat. Under these conditions basil seeds germinate in 5-10 days.

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Cilantro is a quick growing, frost sensitive, warm season crop. It grows best in full sun with daytime temperatures from 80–90°F, and 60–75°F at night on well drained fertile, loamy soil with a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. Maintain consistent soil moisture throughout growth. Pinch off flower buds as they emerge to promote bushiness and leaf production. Do not over fertilize as this will decrease the potency of the essential oils. Air temperatures below 38°F will cause leaves to discolor.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Harvest in the morning after the dew has evaporated but before it gets too hot. For fresh use harvest leaves as needed by cutting just above a node to allow for regrowth. If drying, cut the entire plant at the base and hang to dry immediately after harvest, or spread the leaves out on screens and dry quickly in a dark, dry, well ventilated room. This versatile crop can be used for culinary, medicinal, aromatic, ornamental, and cosmetic purposes.

Squash, Yellow Crookneck

A favorite for over 150 years, this classic, easy-to-grow, heirloom bush summer squash produces abundant white-fleshed fruits that are famously more flavorful than other summer squash types. Use a knife to cut fruit from the plant to avoid breaking the slender necks.

- Heirloom (Open Pollinated)
- Size: 3 -4 feet bush
- Hardiness: Tender Annual
- Easy to Grow: Yes
- Sun: Full
- Water: Moderate
- Seed Planting Depth: 1.00"
- Days to Germination: 7-12 days
- Plant spacing within a row: 12"-24"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Squash are most commonly direct seeded, although transplanting is possible in short season areas. Optimum soil temperature for germination is 70-85°F, but seeds will germinate at temperatures as low as 60°F. Direct seed 2-3 weeks after the last spring frost when weather is warm and settled. Plant seed 1 inch deep, 3 seeds grouped together every 18-24 inches, allowing 24-36 inches between rows for squash; or 24-36 inches apart and 36-60 inches between rows for pumpkins. Thin to one plant per spot. To start indoors, fill 4 inch pots with a sterile seed starting mix. Plant 2 seeds per pot and thin to one plant by snipping off the weaker seedling at the soil level. Harden-off seedlings for 5-7 days prior to transplanting. Squash do not like having their roots disturbed, so transplant 3-4 week old seedlings outside carefully after the last frost.

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Squash and pumpkins are frost sensitive, heat loving crops. They grow best on well drained, fertile soils with a pH between 6.0-7.5. Supply consistent moisture with drip irrigation to

reduce mildew and other foliar diseases. For winter squash and pumpkins, reduce watering as fruits near maturity.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Practice 3 year crop rotations among all Cucurbit family crops (cucumbers, melons and squash). Foliar diseases such as Powdery and Downy Mildew, Alternaria Blight, and Angular Leaf Spot can be minimized by using drip irrigation and mulching to minimize splash-dispersal of spores. Spray young seedlings with insecticidal soap, pyrethrins and neem oil, or cover with floating row cover, to prevent cucumber beetle damage and the bacterial wilts they can vector, but uncover plants during flowering for pollination. Control aphids to prevent mosaic virus. Squash Vine Borers can be 'surgically' removed from the stems. At the first sign of wilt, look for the sawdust-like 'frass' at the entry hole and cut parallel to the stem to extract and crush the worm. Use a twist tie to loosely seal the wound, bury the stem, and hope the plant survives. See our merchandise section for related products.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Summer Squash: Harvest when fruit is 6-8 inches long by cutting from the plant with a knife. Pick frequently and remove all oversized fruit to encourage additional fruit production.

Pumpkins: Cut from the vines leaving a 3-4 inch long stem when the fruits have turned orange and the skin has hardened. Winter Squash: Harvest when vines have begun to die back and fruit has reached its full size and final color. Cut fruit from vines leaving a 1-2 inch stem for good storage. Store at 50-55°F in a dry place. Bring in before the first frost to avoid chilling damage that reduces storability.

Sugar Baby Watermelon

A summertime treat, Sugar Baby sets an abundance of flavorful fruit on compact vines. The refreshing, sweet, crunchy pink watermelons have thick, nearly black rinds and are small enough to fit easily in the icebox. Great for small gardens and the perfect size for kids.

Open Pollinated

Size: 10-22 lb fruit

Hardiness: Tender Annual

Easy to Grow: Yes

Sun: Full/Partial

Water: Moderate

Seed Planting Depth: 0.50"

Days to Germination: 7-12 days

Plant spacing within a row: 12"-24"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Melons are most commonly direct seeded, although transplanting is necessary in areas with shorter seasons to achieve maturity. Optimum soil temperature for germination is 80–90°F, but seeds will germinate at soil temperatures as low as 65°F. Direct seed 4 weeks after the last spring frost when weather is warm and settled. Plant seed $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch deep, 3 seeds grouped together every 12-24 inches, allowing 36-48 inches between rows. Thin to one plant per spot. To start indoors, fill 4 inch pots with a sterile seed starting mix. Plant 2 seeds per pot and thin to one plant by snipping off the weaker seedling at the soil level. Harden-off seedlings for 5–7 days prior to transplanting. Melons do not like having their roots disturbed, so transplant 3–4 week old seedlings outside carefully after all danger of frost has passed and weather is warm and settled.

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Melons are a frost sensitive, heat loving crop, requiring 90°F temperatures during maturity to produce sweet fruit. They grow best on light, well drained soils with a pH between 6.0-7.0. Plastic mulch or floating row covers are often used to increase soil and air temperatures in cooler regions, but covers must be removed during flowering to allow for insect pollination. Grow with drip irrigation to reduce mildew and other foliar diseases. Provide ample water and nutrients throughout growing period to maintain green healthy foliage.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Practice 3 year crop rotations among all Cucurbit family crops (cucumbers, melons and squash). Foliar diseases such as Powdery and Downy Mildew, Alternaria Blight, and Anthracnose can be minimized by using drip irrigation and mulching to minimize splash-dispersal of spores. Spray young seedlings with insecticidal soap, pyrethrins and neem oil, or cover with floating row cover, to prevent cucumber beetle damage and the bacterial wilts they can vector, but uncover plants during flowering for pollination. Control aphids to prevent mosaic virus. See our merchandise section for related products.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Most of our melon varieties are ripe when the fruits separate from the vine ('slip') by themselves. This is usually accompanied by a warming in the rind color from light green to gold or tan. Exceptions are noted in the variety descriptions. Watermelons are generally ripe when the first leaf and tendril located where the fruit is attached to the vine turns dry and brown, and the pale spot where the melon sits on the ground turns from pale green to yellow. Listening for the hollow sound emitted when thumping the watermelon with your finger is less reliable. Sugars in melons will not increase after harvest. Reduce or cut off watering 10-14 days before fruit matures to concentrate sugars to enhance sweetness. Store in the refrigerator.

Sugar Snap Peas Details

Succulent, sweet and crispy snap peas make fantastic healthy snacks that kids can pick and eat right from the vine. Great fresh, steamed or frozen, these delicious 3 inches pods are produced on vigorous vines in both cool and warm weather. Staking is recommended.

- Open Pollinated
- Size: 4 -5 feet vines, 3 -4 inch pods
- Disease Resistant: Pea Wilt
- Hardiness: Hardy Annual
- Easy to Grow: Yes
- Sun: Full/Partial
- Water: Moderate
- Seed Planting Depth: 1.00"
- Days to Germination: 7-10 days
- Plant spacing within a row: 1"-3"

Start From Seed: Detailed instructions for direct seeding, or starting seeds indoors and transplanting.

Peas are most often direct seeded, but can be transplanted if soil is too wet and cold, and if you are careful not to disturb the roots. Inoculate seed with Rhizobium bacteria prior to planting for optimum Nitrogen fertility. Direct seed in spring 2-4 weeks before the last frost. For a fall crop, seed 8-12 weeks before the first fall frost. Seeds will germinate at soil temperatures as low as 45°F, but sprout more quickly between 60–75°F. Plant seeds 1 inch deep, 1 seed every 1-3 inches, allowing 24-36 inches between rows. To start indoors, fill 2-4 inch pots with a sterile seed starting mix. Plant 2-4 seeds per pot, ½ to 1 inch deep. Do not thin. Harden seedlings for 7-10 days before transplanting out 2-4 weeks before the last spring frost. Carefully plant out each pot 4-6 inches apart without disturbing roots of grouped seedlings.

Growing Conditions: Growing seasons, soil types, water and fertility requirements.

Peas are a cold hardy crop, and need a cool growing season to succeed. They prefer well drained soils with a pH between 6.0-7.0. Inoculate peas with Rhizobium bacteria to stimulate nitrogen fixation for improved yield and soil fertility. Even short-vined 'bush' varieties benefit from trellising, increasing yield and making them easier to harvest.

Pest Prevention: Organic solutions to common problems.

Peas are susceptible to various soilborne seed and seedling rots as well as foliar diseases such as Ascochyta Blight and Powdery Mildew. Choose mildew resistant varieties for fall sowings (see variety descriptions). Avoid overhead irrigation, trellis and increase plant spacing to maximize airflow, practice crop rotations, and compost crop debris to manage these and other diseases. Heavy thrips pressure may be controlled by use of row covers or OMRI-approved Spinosad sprays. See our merchandise section for related products.

Harvest: Is it ready yet? When to harvest and how to store your garden produce.

Harvest shell peas when the pods are plump and full. Harvest snap peas when the pods are thick and crispy and the peas have filled out inside the pod. Harvest snow peas when they reach a desirable size. Harvest all types frequently to encourage continuous production. Store in the refrigerator. Peas freeze well for long storage.