

Plant it deep. Put a good stocky plant in so the lowest leaf is just above the soil. Leggy plants should be buried very deep. Pull off a few leaves and, to make planting easier, bend the stem and lay it in sideways. Roots will develop all along the buried stem.

Firm the soil Press the soil firmly around the root ball. Then water lightly to settle the soil and remove any air pockets that may be left around the root ball.

Tomato Care

Weeding - Weeds compete with tomato plants for water, nutrients, and sunlight, especially during early growth. Weeds also harbour insects and diseases. Keep the area around tomatoes free of weeds by shallow cultivation of less than 5 cm deep, with a hoe or hand cultivator. Since most of feeding roots develop near the soil surface, whenever possible remove weeds by hand. As the plants grow, cultivate progressively shallower and farther away from them to avoid root injury and stop cultivating when the tops cover the ground.

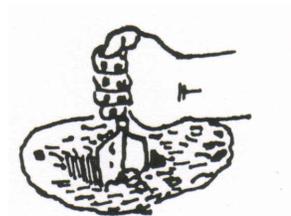


Watering - Tomatoes need an adequate supply of water for vigorous, uniform growth. As a general guide, tomato plants should receive 2.5 cm of water per week. If there is not rainfall for a week, water plants thoroughly. Heavy soakings at weekly intervals are better than several light sprinklings. Sandy soils need to be watered oftener than clay and other heavy soils. Do not wet foliage any more than necessary.



Digging Holes - Mark where you want each plant and dig the hole deep enough to bury the tomato stem as far as the first leaf.

Starter Solution - Soak each hole with a cup or so of high phosphorus starter solution about ½ hour before planting. No additional fertilizer will be needed until after the fruit starts to develop.

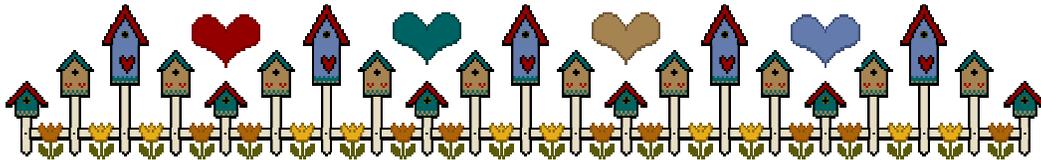


Ready to Plant - If it's in a peat pot, tear off the top edge so it can't act as a wick and dry out the root ball.



If the tomato plant is in a plastic fiber or a clay pot, tip it out. Do not pull it out by the stem.

If the plant is in a peat cube, it is ready already.





GROUP ACTIVITY

Garden Tool Crossword

