

# Tomatoes

## *Helpful information for tomato plants*

Code: V= Resistant to verticillium wilt

F= Resistant to fusarium wilt

N= Resistant to nematode on roots

D= Determinate growth habit, which is bush shaped with more branching, earlier producing, better suited for container planting.

I= Indeterminate growth habit, meaning the plant is more sprawling, needing more support. These varieties usually produce for a longer season.

SD = Semi Determinate plants which are usually large growing with better foliage than determinate, which helps prevent sunburn on the fruit. They do not sprawl as much as indeterminate.

Tomato plants are best grown in a bright, sunny area. Good draining soil is best, but not absolutely necessary. Incorporate generous amounts of organic material into the soil before planting. When first planted, be sure the young plants do not dry out, water daily for the first week and gradually slack off to a good, deep watering once a week, or as need. It will depend upon weather and soil conditions.

Stake the plants with sturdy redwood 1" x 1" stakes or similar, four to five' long (a 4' stake is only 3' tall when placed in the ground). You can use tomato cages made of heavy wire. Be watchful of the plant and the crop. If it gets too big, the whole cage can bend over. If the cage becomes wobbly, additional support can be added by staking the plant.

Feed regularly to insure optimum growth. Most dry fertilizers should be used once a month. Water soluble fertilizers are usually best every two weeks.

Insects should be controlled when they become apparent. Be sure to use products that are safe for food crops. White fly, aphids, and tomato worms are the most common.

Blossom end rot, which is a large brownish spot on the lower side of the tomato, is sometimes a problem. Adding calcium (gypsum) to the soil before planting is often all that is needed to reduce the possibility of this ailment. Climatic conditions may also contribute to blossom end rot. Water tomatoes evenly to avoid the fruit splitting.