

Tomatoes

Written by New Castle County Master Gardener Rick Judd

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General Information

- **Scientific Name:** *Lycopersicon lycopersicum*
 - **Family:** Solanaceae
- Warm season
- **Planting Window:**
 - Start seeds indoors, under lights in mid-March 8 weeks prior to transplanting around mid-May
- **pH** = 5.5-7.5
- **Spacing:** one plant will fit in a 5-gallon container
- Check moisture frequently to make sure plant does not dry out
- Work one trowel-full of 4-6-6 fertilizer into hole before transplanting
- **Tip:** support plants with cages to keep them upright!

Tomato photos courtesy of Rick Judd



Successful Cultivators

- Hornworm - inspect leaves and plant umbellifereae herbs
- Mulch with plastic layer or grass clippings to prevent splash when watering
- Disease-resistant cultivars can be planted as well

Common Pests and Diseases

- Patio F Hybrid (70 days)
- Bush Champion II Hybrid (65 days)
- Bush Early Girl Hybrid (65 days)

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