

Tomatillo

Physalis philadelphica



General Information

- Edible
- Sun Exposure: Full sun
- Water needs: Moderate
- Temperature: Grows best at soil temperatures around 70 °F to 80 °F. Do not plant when frost is still prevalent.
- Days to harvest: Harvest once husks on the fruits turn tan or brown. Around 75-100 days after planting.
- Harvest season: Mid-late summer

Planting Guide

- Planting Season: Plant several weeks after the last chance of frost. You can look up the last frost date online (Usually around April 1st).
- Location: Plant in full sun with rich, well-draining loamy soil.
- Compost: Mix aged compost into the soil before planting to help the plant grow.
- Spacing: Plant 18-24 inches apart in each row; rows 36-48 inches apart.

Care Guide

- Irrigation: Water to the tomatillo enough to keep the soil moist, but don't overwater. Around 1-1.5 inches per week should be enough.
- Support: Caging or staking your tomatillos encourages upright growth, which reduces the risk for disease on sprawling stems.

- Supplemental Fertilizer: You can apply continuous-release fertilizer to keep the plants well-fed throughout the growing season.
- Pests: The tomatillos resist most common insect pests like aphids, but if these do appear you can spray them off with water and organic pesticide. For larger pests like worms or caterpillars you can physically remove them. Staking the plant to prevent fruit touching the ground will discourage pests from attacking the plant.
- Diseases: Blossom-end rot is one common problem. Identified by dark, sunken spots on the fruit, this issue is usually caused by calcium deficiency from uneven watering or lack of nitrogen in the soil. It can be mitigated with a calcium spray on the foliage and by making sure the soil is consistently moist. Black spot fungus is another issue. This is characterized by dark splotches on the leaves of the plant. This is easily mended with fungicide. Blossom drop is a more serious issue. This can be caused by adding too much nitrogen to the soil through fertilizer, or fluctuating temperatures. Make sure to plant the tomatillo once warm temperatures have stabilized, and test your soil before applying fertilizer to avoid adding too much nitrogen.

Sources:

<https://gardeningcalendar.ca/articles/growing-tomatillos-how-to-care-grow-and-use-tomatillos/>

<https://morningchores.com/growing-tomatillos/>

<https://bonnieplants.com/how-to-grow/growing-tomatillos/>

<https://growinginthegarden.com/how-to-grow-tomatillos-7-tips-for-growing-tomatillos/>