

# Red Tomato

*Solanum lycopersicum*



## General Information

- Edible
- Sun Exposure: Full sun
- Water needs: Moderate
- Cold Tolerance: Can survive down to 33 degrees Fahrenheit, but does better if above at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit (best is 55 degrees F for soil temperature)
- Days to harvest: Depends on when you plant during each season.
  - If planted early season: 40 to 60 days
  - Midseason: 60 to 80 days
  - Late season: 80 or more days
  - So, try to plant in early season; you can harvest tomatoes once the skin starts to gloss
- Harvest season: Late summer

## Planting Guide

- Location: A site with full sun for at least 8 hours a day, make sure soil is well drained, or even better, if soil is heavy and loamy. Soil pH should be 5.5 to 6.8. Try to also turn the soil at least 12 inches deep to begin with before planting.
- Compost: 2 to 4 inches of aged compost to begin with, or you can also use commercial planting mix.
- Spacing: Plant 24 inches apart from each other in both directions.
- How to plant: Dig a hole at least twice the size of the pot your tomato is in. You can add some fertilizer to the planting site before planting. You will want to bury your tomato plant deep-- at least half of the stem, and up to two-thirds should be below the soil line. Cover and pat gently with soil before watering thoroughly.

## Care Guide

- Irrigation: Keep the soil moist but not wet; tomatoes need regular watering every day. If the leaves become wilted in the morning, that's a sign that you need more watering. Use a slow, deep watering in this instance.
- Pruning: Prune the suckers, or the smaller stems that come from the roots of the soil that are part of the main plant in order to conserve energy for the plant. As plants grow taller, remove leaves and branches from the bottom 12 inches of the plant to deter soil based diseases.
- Support: Once plants grow taller, it is a good idea to provide stakes, trellises, or cages to support the plant, keeping it upright and therefore free of disease.
- Pests and Diseases: It's important when dealing with diseases to keep the soil consistently MOIST. The soil being too wet or water coming directly overhead of the plant will cause diseases, and the soil cracking due to dryness can cause disease as well. If a plant is diseased, remove immediately to prevent further spread. In terms of pests, you can either spray them off with water and insecticidal soap, or for cutworms, put a paper collar around the tomato seedlings.

## Varieties

- Unless otherwise stated below, consider all varieties of tomatoes to have the same care instructions as above.
- Varieties of tomato that we grow:
  - Brandywine
  - Indigo Rose
  - Cherokee Purple

# Brandywine Tomato

## Care Guide

- Fertilizer: The only thing different about the brandywine tomato is the fertilizer needs. This plant needs substantial amounts of fertilizer to thrive. Midway through growth apply fertilizer with no nitrogen. Continue to starve plants of nitrogen until fruits begin to form, then apply nitrogen-rich fertilizer to the plants.

## Sources:

[https://harvesttotable.com/how\\_to\\_grow\\_tomatoes](https://harvesttotable.com/how_to_grow_tomatoes)

<https://diygardens.org/2020/04/19/guide-to-growing-brandywine-tomatoes/>