

## HOW TO GROW BIG, TASTY TOMATOES

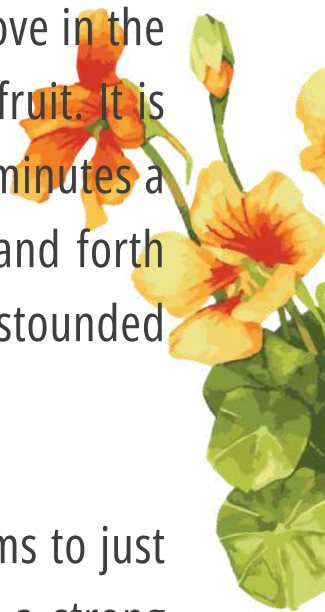
First, collect your Tomato seeds from your nearest Western Downs Library branch.

Then choose an open area in your garden plot with plenty of sunlight - or a large pot. Tomatoes have an extensive root system so a minimum size would be a 20lt pot.

Tomato seedlings require a lot of sunlight. If they don't get enough sunlight the seedlings will get a leggy look and will not produce a lot of fruit.

Create good air circulation. The more the young seedlings move in the breeze the stronger they develop stems that can hold more fruit. It is okay to place an electric fan on your young seedlings for 10 minutes a day or ruffle your seedlings gently by waving a hand back and forth across the top of them for a few minutes a day. You will be astounded with the results.

Tomato seedlings need to be planted deep, so plant the stems to just shy of the first leaves for the best results. This encourages a strong plant as they then develop roots along the stem. Give each plant plenty of room to branch out. Crowding tomato plants inhibits growth and stress the plants leading to diseased plants.



For best results, apply fertiliser every 2 weeks once you have them in the soil.

Water regularly and deeply, especially in dry hot weather. Put a layer of clean mulch around your plants in hot weather to assist with moisture retention.

Provide a trellis or cage to support the plant once they reach 30cm tall. A wooden stake with ties, or string support, is sufficient.

Once your plant gets about 60cm tall, remove the leaves from the bottom of the plant. This will help prevent fungus problems as the old leaves close to the ground can come into contact with soil borne pathogens.

In 40 to 70 days, you should have a lovely harvest of healthy tomatoes.

Partially ripe fruit can be placed in a paper bag at room temperature to ripen quicker. Ripe fruit can be placed in the refrigerator to prevent spoiling.

Enjoy the fruits of your labour!

**KEEN TO GET GROWING?**

Visit the website  
[westerndownslibraries.com/seed-library](http://westerndownslibraries.com/seed-library)

