

# HOW TO GROW- TOMATOES

Fun fact- tomatoes are also carnivorous -the fine hairs on them are designed to stick flies to them and kill them, so they will decompose in the soil

20 May, 2020



## The basic information-

- *Annual edible*
- *Sowing- February-April*
- *Temperature they like 18 celsius indoors and above 15 outside. Night temperature shouldn't drop below 10.*
- *Light requirements - they love sunny locations for their fruit to ripen. Indoors make sure it's not too intense, shade them if necessary. A bright sunny room making sure the plant gets sunlight,*

---

*a greenhouse or south facing wall with cloche over.*

## KNOWING WHAT TOMATO TYPE / CULTIVAR TO CHOOSE.

*The two different types of tomatoes-*

- *Indeterminate- Cordon- these vigorous tomatoes that are trained to grow upwards to 2m or more. They need regular care such as de-leafing and pinching the side shoots. Will need good growing supports such as a sturdy cane.*
- *Determinate- Bush, they produce compact small plants, ideal for pots or baskets or growing in a cold frame for example outdoors. They require less care as there's no need for pinching out.*

*There are the few odd tomatoes that are between these two grow types like beefsteak tomatoes. the vigorous side shoots are what will end in fruiting trusses.*

---

## GROWING INDETERMINATE / CORDON TOMATOES

*Training -allow one leader and snip out all side shoots that appear ( they usually appear above leaf joints like in the picture.)*

*Once your tomato has 4-6 trusses then pinch out the tip 2 leaves above the last truss and stop it growing any more. Any more fruits than that it won't ripen them.*

*Left untrained these types will become a mass of flowers and tangled stems with little fruit and flowers. For this reason it's good practice to remove the bottom leaves completely and thin out*



---

*the rest to expose the fruits to sunlight. This also allows better airflow reducing fungal diseases like tomato leaf mould or tomato blight.*

## DETERMINATE- BUSH TOMATO

*These types don't need much height as they reach about 1m at a maximum so when attaching supports make sure its a 1m cane and tie the tomato plant to it loosely. A good way to tie string for a plant support is onto the plant and cane in a figure of eight -like the picture, making sure the plant isn't stangled.-*

*Training is much easier and less intensive than cordons but wont give as large trusses as cordons. Leave the side shoots on the plant as these will give fruit.*

*They are good for pots, windowsill containers or hanging baskets. Varieties such as Tomato 'tumbling tom red' or tomato 'romello'*



---

## HOW TO POT UP TOMATOES AND CHOOSING THE RIGHT POT.

*In the picture below, that shows you the different stages of pots required for potting up. This is necessary because put that small tomato plant in the picture into the pot at the end then you risk the plant having a weak root system and rotting away from excess moisture.*



*If you follow that rough guideline of gradually potting plants up then your tomatoes should be strong and healthy.*



---

*Growing medium - multipurpose compost is all you need useful additives to really help them along are perlite or grit to make sure roots get enough air about them.*

*fertiliser - feeding them*

*A high potassium fertilizer will help with fruit set and formation. Fertiliser that is high in potassium is seaweed, fish blood and bone. Wood ash from your fire applied will also work very well.*