

# Know Your Tomatoes



## DETERMINATE VS INDETERMINATE TOMATOES

### DETERMINATE TOMATOES

- 🍅 These tomatoes grow to a fixed mature size and ripen all their fruit in a short period (usually about two weeks).
- 🍅 They're often referred to as "bush" tomatoes.
- 🍅 Despite the plants more compact size, staking or caging is still recommended as they will be supporting a heavy load once the tomatoes plump up and ripen.
- 🍅 Choose from Tumbler, Health Kick, La Roma Red, Patio, Manitoba Bush, Tiny Tim, and Bush Early Girl.

### INDETERMINATE TOMATOES

- 🍅 These tomatoes set and ripen fruit throughout the growing season until frost kills the plants.
- 🍅 They will give you a slow and steady supply of tomatoes, rather than one large harvest.
- 🍅 They need large, sturdy stakes or caging for support because of how long they grow.
- 🍅 Choose from Sweet 100, Sweet Million, Chocolate Sprinkle, Sun Gold San Marzano, Lemon Boy, Early Girl, Beef Master, Better Boy and Big Beef.

## WHICH TOMATO TYPE SHOULD I PLANT?

Both determinate and indeterminate tomato varieties have positives and negatives. Choose the type of tomato you want to grow based on how you'll use the tomatoes and the length of your growing season.

Indeterminate tomato varieties continue to grow and set fruit until frost, while determinate (or bush) tomatoes reach their mature height, set all their fruit at once, and stop growing at a predetermined size.

All tomato plants are vines, but indeterminate tomatoes grow much longer than determinate varieties. There are pros and cons to each type. Indeterminate tomatoes produce more fruit but require more maintenance. Determinate tomatoes produce less fruit but are low-maintenance.

## FAQS

### Which is better, a determinate or indeterminate tomato plant?

The choice depends on how you plan to use the tomatoes and the length of your growing season. A determinate tomato is better for sauces and an indeterminate tomato is best for fresh season-long slicing.

### What are the best-tasting indeterminate tomatoes?

Some of the most popular indeterminate tomatoes to grow include the varieties 'Beefsteak', 'Big Boy', 'Brandywine', 'Sungold', and 'Sweet Million'.

### Do you need to prune indeterminate tomatoes?

Yes, you should prune indeterminate tomato plants. These tomato plants grow over a long season and produce a lot of leaves. Pruning allows more energy to be directed to fruit production instead of leaves and allows more sunlight to ripen the fruit.

### How tall should I allow my indeterminate tomatoes to grow?

Some indeterminate tomatoes can grow as high as 10 feet. If they're hard to reach or manage, use your support structures to let them spread out a bit instead of growing upwards.

# TOMATO PLANTING TIPS:

Tomatoes can be grown easily in patio containers. Be sure to offer a large enough pot, and place it in a full-sun location. Support plants with stakes or cages to ensure proper fruiting. Be sure to monitor water, as containers dry out more quickly than plants in the ground.

Plant tomatoes in the ground 24 to 36 in. (60 to 90 cm) apart in rows. Each row should be spaced 48 inches apart. It's very tempting to put them closer at planting time, but if you get them too close you'll only increase the chance of disease. Use slow-release fertilizer at planting time.

- 🍅 Choose a sunny location (6+ hours of sun) and dig a hole about two times as wide as your pot.
- 🍅 Remove your plant from the pot by loosening the soil and tipping it out into your hand. Plant tomatoes deep in the soil – up to the top two leaf nodes. The tiny hairs on the stalk have the potential to become additional roots, which will stabilize your plant well in the soil.
- 🍅 Refill the space around your plant with soil and press lightly to compact the dirt, keeping your plant firmly in the ground.
- 🍅 Water immediately to settle the soil, and add more soil as needed, bringing it level to the rest of your garden.
- 🍅 You'll need stakes or wire tomato cages to support the plants and keep the fruit off the ground where it might rot.

## WHICH TOMATO SHOULD I USE?

### SLICING TOMATOES:

Beefsteak  
Mortgage Lifter  
Brandywine  
Early Girl  
Celebrity  
Lemon Boy  
Little Sicily  
Super Fantastic

### TOMATOES FOR SALADS:

Cherry  
Roma  
Beefsteak  
Grape  
Yellow Pear  
Sungold  
Little Sicily  
Orange Zinger

### TOMATOES FOR SAUCES:

Celebrity  
San Marzano  
Amish Paste  
Early Girl  
Roma  
Jubilee

### SWEET TOMATOES:

Sweet Million  
Sweet 100  
Chocolate Sprinkles  
Sungold  
Mortgage Lifter  
Patio

### CANNING TOMATOES:

San Marzano  
Galdiator  
Amish Paste  
Super Fantastic  
Roma  
Better Bush  
Bush Beefsteak  
Tumbling Tom  
Bush Early Girl  
Sungold

