

Woodlands Nurseries

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GROW TOMATOES

When Spring-autumn

What you need Flower pots with crocks at the bottom for drainage
Large containers to transplant into (1' wide) or use grow bags
Tomato seeds (or plants optional)
Multipurpose compost
Tomato fertiliser
Watering can

About this project

How nice would it be to grow your own tomatoes just outside the back door ready for easy picking? You can, and with ease!

Raising plants from seed is straightforward and rewarding. Don't fancy it? Don't worry. Garden centres always have a good range of tomato plants in late spring ready to plant on.

Once the plants start to crop, encourage growth with a liquid tomato food once a week, tomatoes are hungry plants!

What to do

1. Fill a pot or seed tray with multipurpose compost
2. Sprinkle tomato seeds on the surface and then cover them with a light dusting of sifted compost
3. Place the pots or tray somewhere warm and sunny, perhaps on a windowsill. Covering with cling film will help retain moisture and encourage germination, which will take around 10 days.
4. When the seedlings emerge prick them out into individual pots. Do this using a dibber (or a pencil), gradually loosening the seedling. Carefully move by the leaf not the stem.
5. Plant each into individual pots and position on a well lit windowsill where they will grow rapidly.
6. Keep the plants well watered, but take care not to over water. Plant outside around late May, after the any threat of frost has gone.
7. Harvest as they tomatoes ripen!
8. Feed every week with a tomato fertiliser to encourage them to keep growing.

Tips

- Good varieties to grow are 'Moneymaker', 'Gardener's Delight' and 'Shirley'.