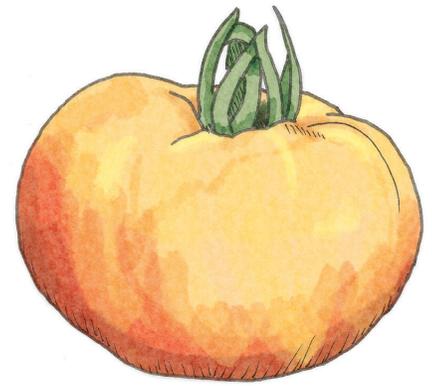
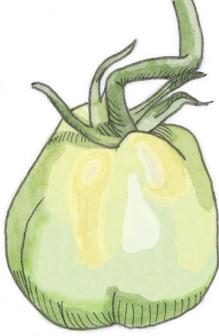
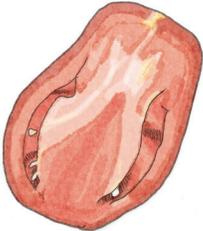


TOMATO

GROWING GUIDE



| | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---|---|
|  | <h3>Seed Starting</h3> | <p>Plant seeds in soilless potting mix 1/4 inch deep in containers with drainage holes.</p> | <p>If more than one seed sprouts in a container, cut away any extras with scissors at the soil level.</p> |
| | | <p>Start seeds indoors in March or April.</p> | <p>Pot up your plants when they have 2 "true" leaves, or if the sprouts "stall" in growth or turn purple (meaning they are lacking nutrients).</p> |
| | | <p>Keep sprouts in a sunny window or under lights.</p> | |
|  | <h3>Potting Up</h3> | <p>Choose a container big enough for your plant's roots & stem plus room to grow.</p> | <p>Transplant deep into the new pot. The soil can come up all the way to the leaves!</p> |
| | | <p>Use a soil mix with compost.</p> | <p>Pot up again and again until ready to harden off and transplant outside.</p> |
|  | <h3>Planting Outside</h3> | <p>Plan to transfer outside in April, or, if you live in a sunny microclimate, you can wait until May or June.</p> | <p>Choose a spot in full sun with at least two square feet of space or a huge pot for each plant.</p> |
| | | <p>Harden off your plants for at least a week or they will not survive outside.</p> | <p>Add compost or vegetable fertilizer to the planting hole and bury the stem up to the leaves.</p> |
|  | <h3>Growing</h3> | <p>Support indeterminate varieties with large cages. These plants can get to 7 feet.</p> | <p>Fertilize occasionally with a "vegetable" or "tomato" fertilizer. If the Nitrogen value is too high, you will get many leaves and no flowers.</p> |
| | | <p>Do not use any tomato cage smaller than 5 feet in height.</p> | |
| | | <p>Water consistently. Drip systems are ideal.</p> | <p>Tomatoes self-pollinate, but wind and gentle taps can help release pollen.</p> |
|  | <h3>Harvesting</h3> | <p>If you find fruit suffering from Blossom End Rot, observe, and if it doesn't go away after the first few fruit, consider taking steps to treat it.</p> | <p>Check fruit for ripeness by feel, not just color.</p> |
| | | <p>Be gentle with picked fruit, and store on the counter, not in the fridge.</p> | |