

Tomato (Container)

Manitoba tomato seeds produce vigorous determinate plants that thrive in cool climates with short seasons. The bright red fruits have smooth skin and firm, meaty flesh with a refreshing, tangy tomato taste. Well-suited for slicing and preserving.

Matures in 65 days

Season: Warm season

Exposure: Full sun

Difficulty: Moderately challenging



Growing

Start indoors in early spring over bottom heat. When seedlings germinate, remove from heat and grow under bright lights. Grow seedlings for 6-8 weeks. Tomatoes can be planted outside once night temperatures are above 10°C (50°F) - or later. Sow seeds 5mm-1cm ($\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ ") deep. Keep seedlings under a very bright light to prevent legginess. Space bush (determinate) transplants 45-60cm (18-24") apart. Bush types benefit from the support of a tomato cage in order to prevent sprawling. At the time of the final transplant, plants can be buried up to their first pair of true leaves. This will encourage greater root growth. Stop watering around the end of July to encourage the fruit to ripen.

Saving

Slice fully ripened tomatoes in half and scoop pulp and seeds into a clean bowl or jar. Add a cup or so of water so that the seeds are floating. Cover and place in a warm, out-of-the-way spot to ferment for 2-4 days. When fermentation is complete (a layer of scum will form or the seeds will have sunk to the bottom of the container) separate the pulp from the seeds and rinse them in a sieve removing any pulp as you go. Dry the seeds on a paper or glass plate (not on a paper towel). Put the seeds into a dated and labeled envelope and return to Brock!