

# Tomato Information Sheet

www.giantveggiegardener.com

## Days to Maturity-How long will it take to get tomatoes?

The number of days from **TRANSPLANTING** your seedlings in the garden until the first appearance of mature fruit. Usually on the packet it will say "Days 65" or "65 days to harvest". Try not to grow too many that are 90 days.

## Two types of tomato plants

**Determinate tomatoes or "bush" tomatoes**-Varieties that grow to a compact height-generally 3 - 4'. All the tomatoes from the plant ripen at approximately the same time-usually over period of 2-3 weeks. They require a limited amount of staking for support and are good for container planting or limited space.

**Indeterminate tomatoes**- they will grow and produce fruit until killed by frost. They can reach heights of up 7 feet although 6 feet is normal. Indeterminates will bloom, set new fruit and ripen fruit all at the same time throughout the season. They require substantial staking for support.

## Tomato Leaves-two types of leaves

**Regular Leaf** is the most typical leaf type with serrated leaves.

**Potato Leaf** has smooth leaf edge and not serrated..

## Three varieties of tomatoes

**Heirloom varieties** - All heirloom plants are **open pollinated** varieties that have been passed down for at least 50 years. **Saved seeds will be true to their original variety.** Can save seeds.

**OP varieties - (Open-Pollinated)** - varieties that are pollinated naturally by wind or insects. They may be heirlooms or future heirlooms if they haven't been around for 50 years yet.

**Hybrid varieties**- A new variety of plant created by crossing 2 separate varieties to achieve desirable characteristics such as disease resistance, color, texture, etc. Saved seeds are unreliable in reproducing the same variety. Do not save seeds.

**Mycorrhizae** - (pronounced mike-or rise-hey) a symbiotic relationship composed of a fungus (Mycorrhizae) and the roots of a plant. In a mycorrhizal association, the fungus colonizes on the plant's roots. Many vegetable garden soils have low or no mycorrhizae present.

## What does mycorrhizae do?

-The plant supplies carbohydrates to mycorrhizae and in turn, mycorrhizae provides several services to the plant.

-The most important is transporting moisture and nutrients to the roots through a complex network of threadlike filaments called hyphae.

-Mycorrhizal hyphae can provide nutrients up to 50 times more efficiently than naked roots.

-Fox Farms Bush Doctor **Microbrew** from Paynes Nursery or Fox Farms Bush Doctor **Root Drench**