

PLANT PROFILE

Tomato



Latin Name: Solanum lycopersicum

Habit/Height: **cordon (or indeterminate) tomatoes** grow tall, reaching up to 1.8m (6ft), and require support, **bush (or determinate) tomatoes** are shorter and bushy, and do not require staking

Soil type: All soil types except heavy clay

Soil Ph: Slightly acidic

Aspect: Full sun, light shade

Hardiness: Tender

Propagation: Sow from seed in small pots indoors, from late February to mid-March if sowing in a greenhouse or late March to April if growing outdoors. Place in a propagator or cover each pot with a clear plastic bag and place on a bright windowsill. The young seedlings need to be kept at around 18°C (64°F). Transplant into 9cm (3½in) pots when two true leaves have formed.

Harvesting: Crop as required

Storage: Storing in the fridge slows the ripening process, storing at room temperature will speed up the ripening process so it may depend on how ripe your tomatoes are as to where best to store them

Cultivation: Water regularly to prevent fruit splitting. Feed every 10–14 days with a balanced liquid fertiliser, changing to a high potash feed once the first fruits start to form.

Pruning: Pinch out the side shoots of cordon tomatoes, remove growing tip after approx. 7 trusses have set indoors and 4 trusses outdoors

Pests: Aphids

Disease: Tomato blight, bottom end rot, tomato leaf mould

Uses: Edible fruit, if you have unripe fruit at the end of the season place somewhere warm and dark to ripen or use to make a green tomato chutney

