



# Starting Tomatoes from Seed

The key to success with starting tomatoes is lots of lighting and warmth. Ensure you use a soil specific for starting seeds.

If you wish to avoid transplanting several times, seed tomatoes into individual 4" pots instead of smaller cell packs.

## Reading Seed Packages

Days to maturity under optimum temperatures

50 – 60 days are early

61 – 70 days are mid season

70 + days are late maturing

There are two basic types of plants

**Determinate:** (don't prune). These are bushy, fairly short and grow to a certain point and then stop. These types of tomatoes set all their fruit at once (good for canning). They require more space in a garden and grow well in a cage.

**Indeterminate:** These are tall tomatoes and require sturdy staking or a trellis. They keep growing and require regular pruning for higher yields and larger fruit. The side shoots are pruned to keep growth restricted to the main stem.

**Semi Determinate:** This is a third type of tomato that grows well in cages or can be staked. They grow upright like indeterminate types but are bushier than regular indeterminate types. They have thick sturdy stems and crinkled dark green foliage.

**When to start seed** - Mid February to Mid April. The sooner you start, the further ahead you'll be once it's warm enough to plant out. However, you **MUST** have adequate lighting in your home, or provide plants with additional grow lights to prevent weak, leggy growth.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Join us Saturday, March 12th at 1pm for our Terrific Tomatoes demonstration.

We'll discuss new and popular varieties and tips on growing the best tomatoes ever. Only \$5.00, pre-register by calling 780-467-7557.