

## Growing Great Tomatoes, Part 1 - Links and Resources

**Tomatoes Vegetable Profile (Univ. of Maryland Extension):** excellent links and videos

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/tomatoes>

**Tomato Plant Information page (Clemson)**

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/vegetables/crops/hgic1323.html>

**Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners (Cornell University):** interactive tool with variety ratings

<http://vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu/main/login.php>

**Dwarf Tomatoes - information and links (PennState Extension)**

<https://extension.psu.edu/dwarf-tomatoes-save-space-and-taste-great>

**Raised Bed Gardens (NC Extension Gardener handbook)**

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/16-vegetable-gardening#gardentypes>

**Straw Bale Gardening (NC State EMG program, Buncombe county):** how-to presentation video

<https://www.buncombemastergardener.org/straw-bale-gardening>

**Tomato Grafting Project (NC State EMG program, Durham county):** how-to video and test results

<https://durhammastergardeners.com/tomato-grafting-project>

**Central NC Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs (NCSU)**

<http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/central-north-carolina-planting-calendar-for-annual-vegetables-fruits-and-herbs.pdf>

**First and Last Frost Dates in NC – interactive map and chart**

<https://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/09/first-and-last-frost-dates/?src=rss>

**Soil Testing - Resources and Links (from NCDA&CS and NC State Extension)**

<https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Soil-Testing-Links-2021.pdf?fwd=no>

**Municipal Compost Information - Guilford county**

<https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Municipal-Compost.pdf?fwd=no>

## Indoor Seed Starting - Best Practices and Resources

**Starting Seeds Indoors (Univ. of Maryland Extension):** includes germination schedule and tips  
<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/starting-seeds-indoors>

**Starting a Garden from Seeds (NCSU):** good pictures of indoor light setups  
<https://lee.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/03/starting-a-garden-from-seeds/?src=rss>

**Lighting Options for Starting Seed (K-State Research and Extension):**  
[https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/agent-articles/vegetables/lighting\\_options\\_for\\_Seeds.html](https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/agent-articles/vegetables/lighting_options_for_Seeds.html)

### *Some best practices for starting and raising transplants indoors:*

- Light is the critical factor and most windowsill situations don't provide enough of it. There are various options for supplemental light, many are fairly simple and economical.
- Containers for starting seed can be purchased or recycled, but must have drainage holes so water can drain freely. Set up the seedling area so that managing water isn't a problem.
- Reused containers should be sanitized to help prevent fungal diseases.
- As seedlings grow they will need more space and larger containers; plan to move them up.
- A hardening-off period is important before moving your transplants into their garden location.
- Don't start seeds too early - healthy transplants are short and stocky, not lanky and overgrown. The plants will be stronger and do better if set out after the soil has had a chance to warm up.

### *Some seed company sources for tomatoes:*

Burpee - <https://www.burpee.com/vegetables/tomatoes/>  
Johnny's Seed - <https://www.johnnyseeds.com/vegetables/tomatoes/>  
Totally Tomato - <https://www.totallytomato.com/category/45>  
Park Seed - <https://parkseed.com/tomato/c/tomato/>  
Gurney's - [https://www.gurneys.com/category/hybrid\\_tomatoes](https://www.gurneys.com/category/hybrid_tomatoes)  
Tomato Growers - <https://tomatogrowers.com/pages/tomatoes>  
Sow True Seeds - <https://sowtrueseed.com/collections/tomatoes>  
Ferry Morse - <https://ferrymorse.com/collections/tomato-seed>  
Southern Exposure (regional) - <https://www.southernexposure.com/>  
High Mowing Organic Seeds - <https://www.highmowingseeds.com/>  
Victory Seeds. (dwarf varieties) - <https://www.victoryseeds.com/>  
Seeds'NSuch (lower cost) - <https://seedsnsuch.com/>