

Growing Great Tomatoes, Part 1 - Links and Resources

Tomato Plant Information page (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

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

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

<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, how-to presentation video (NC State EMG program, Buncombe county)

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

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

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

Central NC Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs (NC State Extension)

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

First and Last Frost Dates in NC - interactive map and chart (NC State Extension)

<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>

Preventing Damping Off Disease (University of Minnesota Extension)

<https://extension.umn.edu/solve-problem/how-prevent-seedling-damping>

Hardening Off and Planting Out Seedlings (NC Cooperative Extension, Carteret county center)

<https://carteret.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/04/hardening-off-plants-planting-outdoors/>

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In Guilford county, contact us with questions: email guilfordmg@gmail.com, or leave a message at 336 641-2404

Indoor Seed Starting - Best Practices and Resources

Starting Seeds Indoors, video (University of Maryland Extension): includes germination schedule
<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/starting-seeds-indoors>

Starting a Garden from Seeds (NC Cooperative Extension, Lee county): 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

Build a Seed Starting Light Stand, video and plans (University of Maine Cooperative Extension)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmqDBgcLihA>

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 won't be 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

Baker Creek – (pictures!) - <https://www.rareseeds.com/catalogsearch/result/index/?q=Tomatoes+seeds>
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
Tomato Growers - <https://tomatogrowers.com/pages/tomatoes>
Sow True Seeds (regional) - <https://sowtrueseed.com/collections/tomatoes>
Ferry Morse - <https://ferrymorse.com/collections/tomato-seed>
Seed Savers Exchange - <https://www.seedsavers.org/category/tomato/department/vegetable-seeds>
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/>
Wild Boar Farms (exotic tomatoes) - <https://wildboarfarms.com/product-category/tomato-seeds/>