



## 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 Extension Master Gardener<sup>SM</sup> volunteers, Buncombe County)

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

**Tomato Grafting Project - how-to video and test results** (NC Extension Master Gardener<sup>SM</sup> volunteers, 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/>

**NC STATE** EXTENSION

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**LIST COMPILED AND DISTRIBUTED BY NC STATE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER<sup>SM</sup> VOLUNTEERS, GUILFORD COUNTY**

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

# Indoor Seed Starting - Best Practices and Resources

**Understanding Seed Catalog Jargon** (NC Extension Master Gardener<sup>SM</sup> volunteers, Durham County)

<https://durhammastergardeners.com/2024/01/24/understanding-seed-catalog-jargon/>

**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](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 - <https://www.rareseeds.com/store/plants-seeds/vegetable-seeds/heirloom-tomato-seeds>

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/>

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/departments/vegetable-seeds>

Southern Exposure (regional) <https://www.southernexposure.com/categories/tomatoes/>

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/>