



## Growing Great Tomatoes, Part 2 - Links and References

**Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden** (Rutgers Cooperative Extension)

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs678>

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

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/growing-tomatoes-home-garden>

**Watch Your Garden Grow - Tomatoes** (University of Illinois Extension) suggested varieties, overview, Q&A, and preservation recipes: <https://extension.illinois.edu/gardening/tomato>

**Organic Gardening** (chapter 17, NC Extension Gardener Handbook): healthy soil, holistic pest management

[https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/17-organic-gardening#section\\_heading\\_8218](https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/17-organic-gardening#section_heading_8218)

**Vegetable Gardening: A Beginner's Guide** (NC State Extension)

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/home-vegetable-gardening-a-quick-reference-guide>

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

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

**Soil Temperature Maps and interactive tools:** searchable by location

<https://www.greencastonline.com/tools/soil-temperature>

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

<https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Soil-Testing-Links-2024.pdf?fwd=no>

**Epsom Salts: Miracle, Myth, or Marketing?** (Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, Washington State Extension)

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/epsom-salts.pdf>

**Municipal Compost Information - Guilford county**

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

**Growing Great Tomatoes, part 1 - handout** (NC State EMG program, Guilford county)

<https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Growing-Great-Tomatoes-Top-Tips-Part-1-Handout.pdf?fwd=no>

**NC STATE** EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Guilford County

**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**

## Growing Great Tomatoes - videos and other resources

**Pruning: Removing Tomato Suckers (video, University of Maryland)**

<https://youtu.be/qBw9YjM2j8E>

**Tomato Problems, Diseases, and Pests (video, NC State EMG program, Buncombe county)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fa9ipImp9uo>

**How to Install Home Garden Drip Irrigation (video, University of Kentucky)**

[https://uknowledge.uky.edu/bae\\_present/1/](https://uknowledge.uky.edu/bae_present/1/)

**Low-Cost Deer Fence Alternative (video, University of Maryland)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmIGg786gOk>

**Excluding and Repelling Problem Wildlife from the Garden (Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst)**

<https://ag.umass.edu/home-lawn-garden/fact-sheets/wildlife-excluding-repelling-problem-wildlife-from-garden>

**Watering the Vegetable Garden (Clemson Cooperative Extension): including soaker hoses, drip irrigation**

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/watering-the-vegetable-garden>

**Raised Bed Gardens (Vegetable Gardening, chapter 16 - NC Extension Gardener handbook)**

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

**Straw Bale Gardening (Clemson Cooperative Extension)**

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/straw-bale-gardening/>

**Growing Fruiting Vegetables in Containers (NC A&T State University Extension)**

<https://www.ncat.edu/caes/cooperative-extension/covid-19/fruited-vegetables.php>

**Container Grown Tomatoes (Penn State Extension):** <https://extension.psu.edu/container-grown-tomatoes>

**Seed Saving Tricks and Tips (blog post, The Garden Professors): w/special notes about saving tomato seed**

<https://gardenprofessors.com/saving-for-the-future-seed-saving-tricks-and-tips>

**Home and Backyard Composting (NC State Extension):** <https://composting.ces.ncsu.edu/home-composting>

**Mulches for the Home Vegetable Garden (Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, 2020)**

[https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs\\_ext\\_vt\\_edu/426/426-326/SPES-256.pdf](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-326/SPES-256.pdf)

## Support Systems - staking and caging tips and techniques

**Tomato Staking Techniques** (UC Master Gardeners, Santa Clara CA): how-tos and info on 11 methods  
<http://mgsantaclaraucanr.edu/garden-help/vegetables/tomatoes/tomato-staking-techniques>

**How to Make Tomato Cages - Big, Sturdy, and Cheap** (PlanterTomato): step by step instructions  
<https://www.plantertomato.com/2010/05/how-to-make-tomato-cages-big-sturdy-cheap.html>

## Growing Great Tomatoes - problem solving sites and resources

**Tomato Problem Solver** (Texas A&M Extension): visual guide to identification of common problems  
<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/problem-solvers/tomato-problem-solver>

**Tomato Diseases and Disorders** (Clemson Cooperative Extension)  
<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/pdf/hgic2217.pdf>

**Tomato Insect Pests** (Clemson Cooperative Extension): excellent photos and a table suggesting controls  
<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/pdf/hgic2218.pdf>

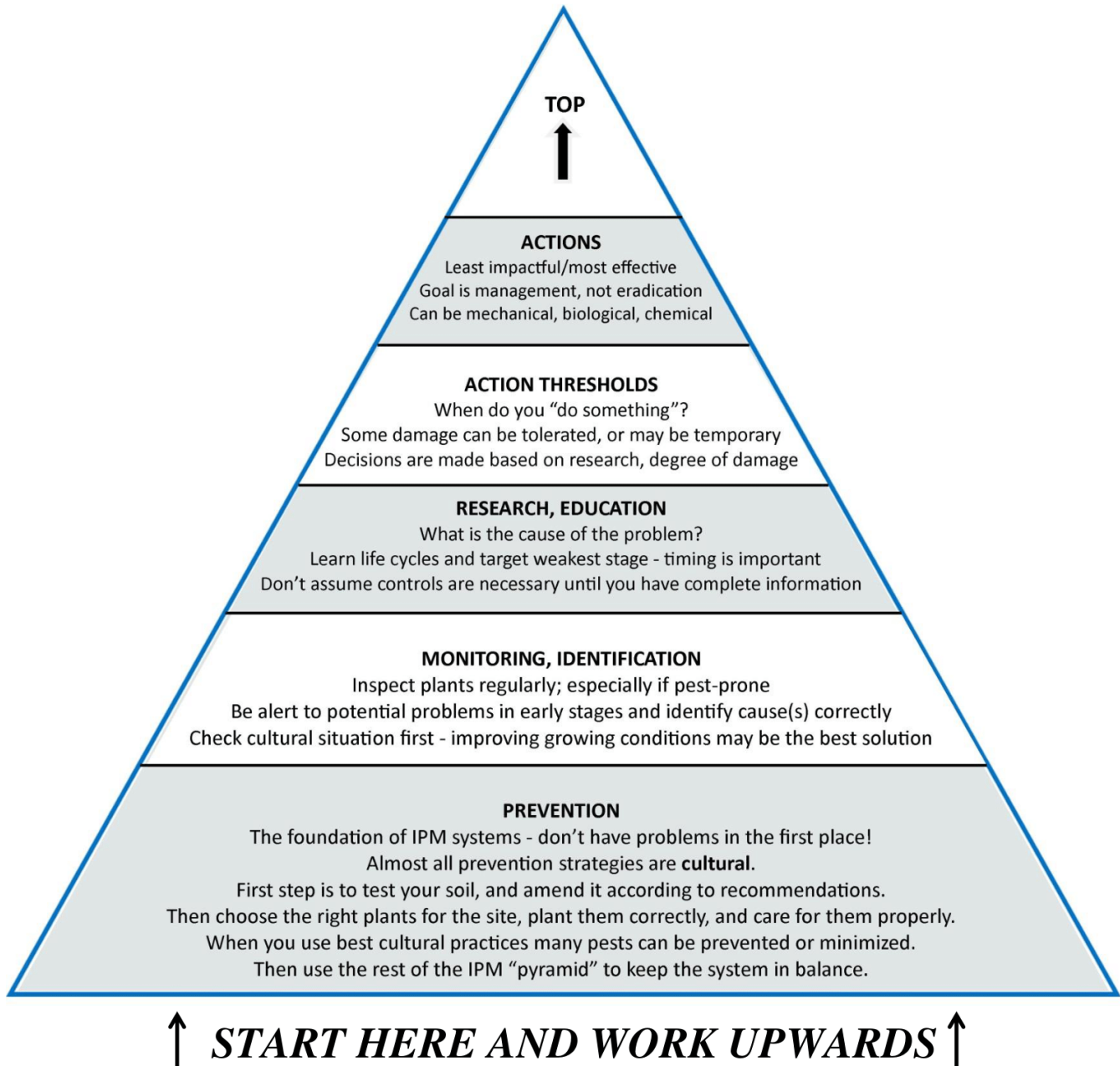
**NC State Extension Plant Disease and Insect Clinic** (Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology)  
<https://pdic.ces.ncsu.edu>

## Top 10 Tips for Great Tomatoes - best practices for home gardeners

- 1- Select a sunny spot (at least 8 hours) with access to water
- 2- Do a soil test and adjust your pH according to the lab's recommendations
- 3- Incorporate organic matter such as compost into the root zone (top 6-12" of soil)
- 4- Grow or purchase quality transplants, and wait for warm soil and air temps before planting
- 5- Give plants enough growing space based on mature size, and good support to keep foliage clean and dry
- 6- Mulch to reduce fungal disease and weed pressure, and also to regulate soil moisture and temperature
- 7- Regular watering (1-2" a week) is essential for growing strong and productive tomato plants
- 8- Fertilize carefully: long season plants may need supplemental nitrogen, but beware of over applying
- 9- Rotate plants in the nightshade family to reduce fungal disease issues, and observe good garden sanitation
- 10- Follow IPM principles: grow strong healthy plants to prevent problems; monitor your plants and get a proper diagnosis of any issues; if action is required, look for the least impactful solutions first

# THE IPM “PYRAMID”

**\*a guide to mindful decision-making for home gardeners\***



Created and Distributed by Guilford County Extension Master Gardener<sup>SM</sup> Volunteers

**NC STATE** EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Guilford County

**NC** COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION

N.C. A&T  
STATE UNIVERSITY

NC STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**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**