

PLANTING TOMATOES

HOW TO HELP YOUR CROP SUCCEED WHEN YOU PLANT SEEDLINGS IN YOUR GARDEN

TAKE THESE KEY STEPS TO TREAT YOUR TOMATO PLANTS LIKE VIPS AND GET ROCK STAR RESULTS THIS SEASON.

CHOOSE AN AREA THAT GETS SUN

– TOMATO PLANTS THRIVE WHEN THEY GET 6–8 HOURS OF DIRECT SUN A DAY. WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PERFECT PLACE TO SET THEM, STOP AND LOOK UP. ARE TREE LIMBS OVERHEAD – BRANCHES THAT HAVE NOT YET LEAFED OUT? IF SO, MOVE ELSEWHERE.

MAKE SURE THE SOIL IS WARM - ESPECIALLY THIS YEAR!

– TOMATOES HATE BEING COLD. THE FIRST FEW INCHES OF THE SOIL ARE WARMER THAN THOSE BELOW. CONSIDER USING THE TRENCH METHOD FOR PLANTING TOMATOES, ALLOWING PLANTS TO LIE HORIZONTALLY IN THAT WARMTH. AND REMEMBER, JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE PASSED YOUR FIRST FROST DATE DOESN'T MEAN THE SOIL IS READY. MAKE SURE EVENINGS STAY WARMER THAN 50°F AND DAYS ARE ABOVE 70°F BEFORE PLANTING

PICK A CLOUDY OR OVERCAST DAY TO PLANT

– YOU'LL REDUCE STRESS ON YOUR PLANTS AND THEY WILL THANK YOU BY ADAPTING QUICKLY.

PREPARE YOUR GARDEN & PLANTS

– DIG YOUR HOLES DEEP ENOUGH TO SO THAT THE LOWEST LEAVES ARE JUST ABOVE THE SURFACE
FILL HOLE OR TRENCH ½ FULL WITH GOOD QUALITY POTTING SOIL
ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE PLANTING, WATER YOUR TOMATOES THOROUGHLY

GIVE THEM A SNACK

– TOMATOES ARE BIG FEEDERS. THEY WILL APPRECIATE THE EXTRA NUTRIENTS AND REWARD YOU WITH STRONG, RAPID GROWTH. WE RECOMMEND USING ½ CUP OF OUR MAGIC DUST FERTILIZER/SOIL AMENDMENT. PUT MAGIC DUST IN THE HOLE WITH THE POTTING SOIL AND ADD WATER.

USE TLC WITH THE STEM

– TOMATOES ARE HARDY PLANTS, BUT AS SEEDLINGS THEY ARE VULNERABLE. HANDLE WITH CARE. HELP LEGGY SEEDLINGS BY PINCHING OFF THE SEEDLING'S LOWEST LEAVES AND BURYING A GOOD PART OF THE STEM BELOW THE SOIL. BUT USE CAUTION WHEN BURYING THE STEM, PARTICULARLY IF IT IS ESPECIALLY LONG. LAY PLANTS IN A TRENCH TO KEEP PLANTS WARM AND TO ALLOW THE PLANT TO DEVELOP EXTRA ROOTS ALONG THE STEM.

PREVENT THIRST

– WATER NEWLY-PLANTED TOMATOES DAILY FOR AT LEAST A WEEK TO HELP THEM GET ESTABLISHED.

STAKE NOW

– PLACE TOMATO STAKES OR CAGES AROUND NEWLY-PLANTED TOMATOES AS PART OF THE PLANTING PROCESS. IF YOU WAIT, YOU RISK DISTURBING THEIR ROOT SYSTEMS.