



10 MORE TIPS for SUCCESS

GROWING
TOMATOES
IN
CONTAINERS

TOMATOMANIA!®

tomatomania.com

SCOTT'S TIPS

FOR GROWING TOMATOES IN CONTAINERS

- 1. Let's start with this:** Don't apologize! Growing tomatoes in containers is a great idea. Perfect drainage, an earlier harvest, mobility and efficient use of space are all good reasons to use containers every season.
- 2. Use large pots.** A tomato plant will not thrive and fruit successfully in a tiny container. 15" x 15" is minimal. A wine barrel or large pulp pot? Excellent, especially since those materials won't heat up excessively.
- 3. Fill the container with a premium potting soil,** planting mix or a combination of the two. Add worm castings? Compost? Yes and yes. Rich soil is key to your success.
- 4. Container varieties are bred to be short and stocky** so they will be perfect in your pot. Smaller-fruited and short season tomatoes will generally be more reliable. Plant the big ones in the ground if you have the space.
- 5. How many plants in a container?** One. That's right, one. Plant it deep so some of the stem is buried. Yes, it may look a bit silly but not for long.
- 6. Set your pots in a place that will get 6-8 hours of sun a day.** Move them at will as the season progresses to ensure the proper amount of direct sunlight.
- 7. Add stakes or a cage as the plant grows,** just like you do in your garden. Or set your pot near a fence that can support the plant. Just hold it up!
- 8. Water regularly and be sure to soak the root ball.** In the hottest part of the season you may be watering every day. Your pot drains much more efficiently than your garden soil, which is an asset.
- 9. Fertilize every 10-14 days.** Because of more frequent watering, the fertilizer you apply will be washed out quickly. Stay on top of this. Foliar feeding (applying liquid food to the leaves) is a great idea as the season progresses.
- 10. Mulch the top of the soil to protect the roots.** Or, wrap the entire container in burlap or canvas to help keep container temps consistent. Overheated pots just fry roots all summer!

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tomato seedling sale

Scott Daigre, owner and producer, is also the author of
Tomatomania!: Your Guide to Perfect Home Grown Tomatoes.

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