

Tomatoes

Planting: Do not plant without protection before last frost date. Tomatoes are very sensitive to temperature. Best planted from starter plants to give you a head start to harvest time, whether seeded indoors prior to last frost or purchased from Wilmore.

Temperature: Nighttime temperature below 55° F will can prevent many varieties from setting fruit. The plant does not have time to set the fruit before the blossom drops off. Tomatoes are also sensitive to excessively high temperatures. When daytime temperatures exceed 90° F they will usually drop their flowers as well.

Problems:

Blossom drop can be caused by excessive temperatures (above 90° F). Try shading the plant during the hottest part of the day on days where the temperature is expected above 90° F.

No flowers can be due to too much nitrogen and water during early stages of growth. Too much nitrogen pushes vine growth and can delay maturity of plant. Try letting the plant dry a little more between waterings to promote flowering.

Blossom End Rot appears as a leathery scar/scab usually on the bottom of the fruit. This is usually caused by sudden changes in soil moisture. Prevent this by keeping a close eye on the plant's water needs; avoid too much or too little water. This can be difficult especially during hot periods. Lack of calcium is another cause. Soil preparation is an important step. Adding a source of calcium, such as Agricultural Lime, Hydrated Lime or Dolomite Lime, can prevent a calcium deficiency.

Varieties:

Determinate tomatoes are bush types and generally are shorter plants. Good choice for containers. All the fruit ripens at the same time.

Indeterminate tomatoes are tall-growing, vining types and require supports. These varieties produce fruit until the plant is killed by a frost.

Hybrid does *not* mean the plant or seed has been genetically modified (GMO). Hybrids contain genetic material from two different tomato varieties and are grown to improve a specific characteristic, such as color, disease-resistance or yield.

Heirloom plants come from plant varieties grown before hybridizing became routine for seed companies. They are open-pollinated, which means that saved seed will produce the same characteristics as the parent plant.

We recommend that you stick with varieties that mature in 90 days or less due to our weather/climate.

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