

How to Start Tomatoes from Seeds



Supplies Needed:

- Tomato Seeds (*the hardest part is picking what kind of tomato you want to grow!*)
- Containers; *cardboard egg cartons, dixie cups, or seed containers you find at your local garden supply store - whatever you use, make sure your containers have drainage holes*
- Potting soil, try to find a soil labeled for "seed starting"
- Fertilizer
- A sunny spot to leave your seed containers (some people have greenhouses, some of us make do with a sunny window ledge)

Steps:

- 1.) Fill each container with soil, leave a 1/2 inch space between the top of the soil and the top of the container, and don't pack the soil too tightly or else air and water can't move through it.
- 2.) Place 2 or 3 seeds in each container, and cover with 1/4 inch of soil and pack gently. (Not all seeds will sprout, so having pairs or trios in each container helps insure you get the seedlings you want)
- 3.) Place the containers in a warm spot (or on a heating mat if you have one). At this point, the seeds don't need light yet, but they need to be kept warm (around 70F, or a bit warmer than room temperature).
- 4.) Keep the soil moist, but not wet - you can wrap cellophane or plastic wrap over your seed containers to keep the warmth and moisture in.
- 5.) Check seeds daily and begin moving containers to a sunny spot as soon as you see sprouts - leaves above the soil means the plant needs light to keep growing.
- 6.) Transplant seedlings to a larger pot outdoors once spring arrives and there is no more risk of overnight frost.

Sources: <http://www.gardeners.com/how-to/video-slideshow-growing-tomatoes/7902.html>
<http://modernfarmer.com/2015/03/grow-your-own-tomatoes-part-1-starting-seed-indoors/>