

# TOMATOES

Edible  
Playgrounds

## 1 SOWING YOUR SEEDS

In late March to early April sow seeds 1cm deep into 9cm pots. Keep them warm in the greenhouse.

## 2 PLANTING OUT

In May and June, once the plants are around 20cm tall, plant outside into beds. Tomato plants will readily grow roots from their stem. So it is traditional to plant them deep in the soil to encourage more root growth and a stronger plant.

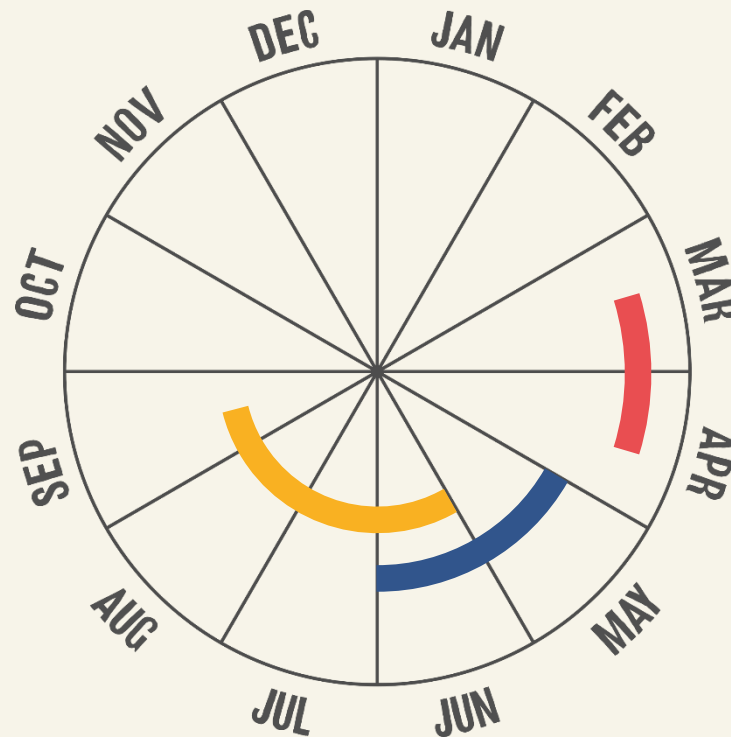
Protect with fleece if the nights are still cold. Plant them at least 50cm apart from each other.

There are two types of tomatoes; bush (determinate) and cordon (indeterminate). Check your seed packet to see which type you have.

Bush varieties will grow outward and do not need support. Cordon tomatoes should be tied to a bamboo stake and side shoots removed, so it can grow tall.

## 3 HARVESTING

Pick tomatoes when they are fully ripe and solid in colour. At the end of the growing season unripe fruit can be put in a warm space to ripen. And there is always the option to make green tomato chutney with any leftover green tomatoes!



Seedlings



Young plants



Ready for harvest

### TOP TIPS

When you pinch out side shoots from tomatoes pop them in a glass of water and watch the roots grow. You now have a free cloned plant for your garden.

Tomatoes grown outdoors are susceptible to the fungal disease blight. Try growing blight resistant varieties or grow them in your greenhouse.