Tomato Growing Tips



1. Plant your tomatoes deeply in open soil, to the depth of the first leaf, as this will help encourage a strong root system to develop. Place a flower pot or milk bottle upside down with the end cut off at an angle by the side of the plant to enable you to water into this and direct the water to the roots. Add a stake and tie to the growing stem, adding new ties as the plant grows. Mulch with straw or grass cuttings to conserve water.

2. Add fertiliser as the plant grows, but don't overdo it as this can dilute the flavour of the fruit.

3. Remove any shoots that grow out diagonally between the main stem and leaves emerging from it, as they weaken the plant, apart from the Cherry type plants, eg Tumbler, Tumbling Tom Red.

4. As the fruits appear, start gradually cutting away the lower leaves until you're left with a bare stem at the end of the season. This allows air to circulate.

5. Once 4 or 5 flowering trusses have formed, pinch out the main growing stem to halt the plant's growth and allow the tomatoes to ripen.