

Gourmet Vegetables

Feed the Family



# Tomato Early Girl

(Solanum lycopersicum)



## DESCRIPTION

Annual vegetable. Bred for vine or pot ripening in gardens, it can grow up to 1.8-2.4m/6-8ft in height. It needs some structural support such as trellis/lattice or garden stakes to keep it upright due to its size. The support is most needed when the fruit is at maturity, on average, the fruit produced is 150-200g/5-7oz in weight. When grown in the right conditions this variety can produce a large yield (approximately 50 per plant) of sweet, firm fleshed fruit.



## USES

Used in many dishes, especially to add color and flavor. Great for pasta, sauces and any dish requiring a flavorsome tomato base.



## GROWTH

Leaves should be picked as often as possible to promote new growth. Tomatoes and asparagus grown together are mutually helpful. Tomatoes aid in the early harvest of cabbage. Tomatoes and Brassicas

of all varieties grown together will help to ward off the white cabbage butterfly.



## CULTIVATION

They do best in hot climates, with extra water in spring while the plant is growing and drier sunny conditions while the fruits are ripening. Grow in rich, moist soil climates. Plants may be grown in a green house but usually the flavor is better when grown outside, provided that they ripen properly on the vine before harvesting. The advantages of green house cultivation are earlier and heavier crops, a longer period of fruit production in autumn/fall and a wider choice of suitable varieties.

Soils that are suitable for tomatoes need to be fertile, well drained and moisture retentive. A good quality potting mix will provide this for this variety if the soil in your garden is not suitable. Ground grown Early Girl tomatoes require a feed of potash when young and a balanced feed with more nitrogen later on. It is found that more potash is needed in the dull 'wet season.' Tomatoes can suffer from a few problems, such as Wilt, Virus, molds and Red Spider to name a few. However on the upside if you keep your plant in good health the diseases risk is lessened. For more information on keeping your vegetables healthy see our organic gardening fact sheet on the Herb Herbert website. Select Special Interest tab and select Organic Gardening on the pull down menu. Companion plant to Parsley. Grow in the same soil each year with the old stems and leaves dug into the soil for compost.



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Any enquiries can be directed to:  
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