

## Tomato Tips from Brad

### Best places to buy seedlings

Green Thumb

Tomatomania --Tapia Bros Encino March 15  
--Otto & Sons Filmore March 22,23  
--Descanso Gardens March 29

Tomatomania has up to 400 varieties in one location.

**Plant early**—I have planted in pots with success as early as February 1. The earliest I have planted tomatoes at the garden is early March with fruit on seven plants this year by April 23.

**Soil**—I like to add Amend, Chicken Manure and Worm castings to the soil each season. This last season I grew mustard greens in the fall and turned them into the soil about a month before spring planting.

**Planting**—I remove the bottom leaves and plant the tomatoes about 3 or 4 inches above the top of the roots. I plant tomatoes about 2 ½ feet from each other and stake them in case of high wind.

**Fertilizer**—Fish emulsion with water from a watering can every two to three weeks

**Water**—Daily 8 minutes

**Most Important TRIM**—weekly. I prune each plant of the majority of non-essential leaves. Trim plant above four feet or so, and cut off rogue odd branches.

**Harvest**—Pick when the fruit slightly softens.

## **Best yielding Tomatoes**

Lemon Boy  
Better Boy  
Carmello  
Jet Setter  
Jaune Flamme  
Bonnie Original (Home Depot planted 2/1)  
Early Girl

## **Best Exotic Tomatoes**

Ananas Noire-beautiful and delicious  
Black Seaman Russian-early grower  
Jubilee-orange in color  
Lucid Gem-most flavorful  
Blue Beauty-people stop and stare  
Blue Gold-people stop and stare  
Chocolate Stripe-few but beautiful  
Amana Orange-huge

## **Best Small Tomatoes**

Orange Paruche  
Sun Gold