

get growing!  
**TOMATOES**

**PLANT**  
After all danger of frost has passed and the soil has warmed

**MULCH**  
With pine straw or chopped leaves

**SOIL**  
Rich, well-drained, slightly acid soil (pH 6.5 to 7)

 LIGHT  
FULL SUN

 WATER  
MEDIUM

 CARE  
MEDIUM

**Plant**

Grow cherry tomatoes in your vegetable garden, in raised beds, or in large containers. You can even tuck them into your shrub borders. They have two simple requirements: at least six hours of full sun each day and well-drained soil that's rich in organic matter. Plant them after all danger of frost has passed and the soil has warmed. Before planting, pinch off

**SAVOR!**

**Roasted Cherry Tomatoes**

Stir together 4 pints **cherry tomatoes**, 1 Tbsp. **olive oil**, 4 **garlic cloves**, 1 tsp. **salt**, 1 tsp. **sugar**, and 1 tsp. **pepper**. Bake at 350° in a single layer in a jelly-roll pan 1 hour and 20 minutes. Remove and discard garlic. Stir in 1/2 cup chopped **fresh basil**, 2 tsp. **balsamic vinegar**, and 1/2 tsp. **salt**.

# Grow Tiny Tomatoes

*Cherry tomatoes prove that good things really do come in small packages*

**▶ HOMEGROWN** tomatoes are a rite of passage for Southern gardeners. While you may already be a pro at growing big tomatoes, don't overlook the small ones. What they lack in size, they make up for in flavor and number. Delicious and easy to grow,

cherry tomatoes are ideal for salads and pastas and for roasting and drying. (That is, if you can make it to the kitchen without devouring your harvest!)

**Choose** Your local nursery should have a good selection of

plants and seeds, and you'll find more choices online. (Check out the options at [tastefulgarden.com](http://tastefulgarden.com).) Start with classics such as 'Sun Gold' or 'Sweet Million' mixed with a tasty newer selection such as 'Sweet Baby Girl.' (See more of our favorites on page 52.)



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the lower leaves of the plant halfway up the stem. Dig a deep hole, and bury each plant up to its first two leaflets. Firm the soil around the stem, and then mulch to help conserve moisture and discourage the growth of weeds.

### Train

Support your plants with convenient tomato cages and ladders. For something long-lasting and heavy-duty, try Texas Tomato Cages ([tomatocage.com](http://tomatocage.com)). Galvanized panels also make great tomato tamers, especially if you're growing lots of plants. Wooden stakes, wire spirals, and bamboo are budget friendly but take more time because you have to tie stems every other day to train them. If you go that route, tie the plants with eco-friendly biodegradable twine. Water cherry tomatoes regularly and harvest frequently to encourage production. 🍅

## CAN'T-MISS TINY TOMATOES

Grow several selections of cherry tomatoes to enjoy a range of flavors.



### 'BLACK CHERRY'

Full-flavored, acidic, dark red fruit on strong plants; Garden Editor's favorite



### 'SWEET MILLION'

Long trusses of tiny, supersweet tomatoes on a vigorous vine



### 'SUN GOLD'

Very sweet, orange fruit growing on a prolific plant



### 'CHERRY FALLS'

Sweet, cherry-pink fruit on prolific, compact plants ideal for hanging baskets and pots



### 'LEMON CHERRY'

High yields of mild, sweet fruit on a big plant; needs lots of room to grow



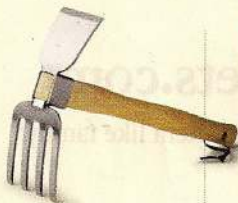
### 'SWEET BABY GIRL'

Sweet, tasty, red fruit on smaller plants (4 to 5 feet tall)

## WHAT TO BUY

### GARDEN EDITOR'S ESSENTIALS

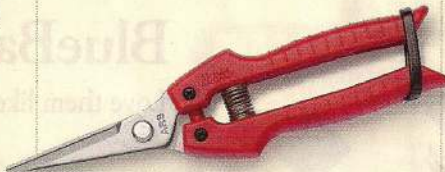
Try these tools and fertilizers to make growing tomatoes at home easy.



**Hoe-Matic Hoe & Cultivator**  
\$26.95;  
[territorialseed.com](http://territorialseed.com)



**Happy Frog Tomato and Vegetable**  
\$8.95; [planetnatural.com](http://planetnatural.com)



**ARS Stainless Steel Needlenose Pruner**  
\$19.57; [wood-avenue.com](http://wood-avenue.com)  
🍅 Reader deal! 15% off all tools online only with code **SLMAR15**



**Dynamite Mater Magic Premium Plant Food**  
\$4.97;  
[homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com)



**Great Big Tomatoes Liquid Compost**  
\$24.95; [tastefulgarden.com](http://tastefulgarden.com)