



General Growing Guide

1. Most plants love as much **Sun** as you can give them. However many will tolerate a lot of shade, but tomatoes are the least forgiving.
2. **Plant** your plants in a bed or pot that drains well. It is always best to overcompensate for the root size of your plant if growing in containers. If nighttime cold temperatures show up, cover your plants with a thick sheet or plastic during the cold evening. *Make sure to remove it before the Sun rises overhead during the day as it can get too hot for those little seedlings.
3. Most plants require an **inch of water on average a week**, but do require more moisture when first planted due to stress and smaller root system.
4. **Mulching** with wheat straw or leaves is incredibly important to conserve moisture and shield weeds, but also to prevent soil splash back on the underside of your plants leaves, which can bring about disease from the soil. It also may benefit your tomato to prune the lower leaves (especially if they have spots or are yellowing) on a dry day for better airflow around the plant.
5. **Trellising** is also very important if you are growing tomatoes as they require support to continue growing.
6. We use thin, floating **row cover fabric** (kind of like a very thin, breathable bed sheet) to prevent insects from seeing and eating our plants as often as possible, especially with squash. For articles on organic insect and disease prevention and control, look up articles on ATTRA, an on-line forum of articles.
7. It is important to provide your **soil with nutrients and organic matter**, which will then feed your plant. Great amendments are compost, worm castings, plant and animal meals, kelp, mineral rock additions, and a little, just a little, wood ash.