



## FYN Garden Q & A Series

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Yards & Neighborhoods



### FYN Topic: Tomato Growing Time

**Question:** Do tomato plants grow here in the winter? How about in the summer? *E. Ross & G. Neff, N., Ft. Myers*

**Answer:** Yes, sometimes they grow in winter-keep them warm. 'Yes' sometimes they grow in summer avoid too much rain and keep them cool. The preferred season is Fall. I know our northern visitors were waiting for me to say, "Transplant your tomatoes outdoors after the last killing frost." That's a no-brainer in Ft Myers, FL, right? However, in tomato talk, the real devil is in the details. Think about our typical winter and spring weather patterns. Sometimes even January, February and March, stay too cold and too dry for a tomato plant to flourish. Tomatoes need a 2 inches of weekly rainfall and consistent day time and night time temperatures between 45°F (7°C) and 85°F (29°C). Our summers are typically too hot and sometimes too wet. Finally, to avoid gambling with the weather, experts say the ideal months for planting tomatoes here are February and September.

### Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>  
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>  
<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>  
<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>



Tomatoes growing in raised garden beds.

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 239-533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by emailing [Extgardener@leegov.com](mailto:Extgardener@leegov.com). Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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