



FYN Garden Q & A Series

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Yards & Neighborhoods



Topic: Growing Tomato Plants

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) and 'Yes' in summer but Fall is preferred. 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 Jan., Feb. and March, stays too cold and too dry for a tomato plant to flourish. Tomatoes need a 2 inch rainfall weekly and temperatures (daytime and night-time) staying between 45°F (7°C) and 85°F (29°C). Our summers are typically too hot and sometimes too wet. Finally, if you least want to gamble, the ideal months for planting tomatoes here by experts is February and September.

Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>

<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by emailing Extgardener@leegov.com. Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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