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SPECIAL INTEREST HERBS

# GOURMET VEGETABLES

## PATIO TOMATO

*Lycopersican Solanaceae*



### DESCRIPTION

Patio Tomatoes are a dwarf form of tomatoes and are fairly compact plants. They are excellent for containers, hanging baskets, patios and small gardens. These 3 varieties are all determinate (fruit is produced all at once).

'Bush Early Girl' Hybrid 'Little Smart Sister' to Early Girl, compact & produce large yields on much smaller plants. 54 days. 'Florina'

Produces extra large fruit. Nice and firm, good for sandwiches. Sets fruit even in extreme heat, less blossom drop.

'Tiny Tim' Miniature cherry tomatoes. Dwarf 24 cm / 12 inch plants become literally loaded with small, firm red fruit about 2 cm / 1 inch in diameter. Extremely early, 55 days.



### GROWTH

Leaves should be picked as often as possible to promote new growth. Tomatoes and asparagus grown together are mutually helpful. Tomatoes aid in the early harvest of cabbage. Tomatoes and Brassicas of all varieties grown together will help to ward off the white cabbage butterfly.



### CULTIVATION

They do best in hot climates with extra water in spring while

the plant is growing and drier sunny conditions while the fruits are ripening. Grow in rich, moist soil climates. Plants may be grown in a green house but usually the flavor is better when grown outside, provided that they ripen properly on the bush before harvesting. The advantages of green house cultivation are earlier and heavier crops, a longer period of fruit production in autumn/fall and a wider choice of suitable varieties. Soils suitable for tomatoes are fertile, well drained and moisture retention. A good quality potting mix will provide this for this variety which grows well in pots. For ground grown plants Patio Tomatoes require feed of potash when young and a balanced feed with more nitrogen later on. It is found that more potash is needed

in dull wet season. Bush varieties are better well mulched so the fruit does not sit in the dirt, or splashed when water falls.

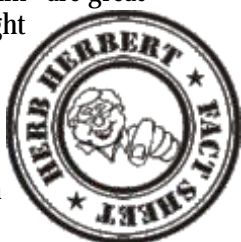
Tomatoes can suffer from a few ails. Wilt, Virus, molds and Red Spider to name a few.

However on the upside if you keep your plant in good health the diseases risk is lessened.



### USES

Patio Tomatoes can be used in many dishes. Miniature cheery tomatoes such as the "Tiny Tim" are great in salads and as a light snack. The larger varieties are great for slicing, can be used in sandwiches and are also great in salads.



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