

Caring for Your Tomato Plants

As we move towards mid-June, more mixed conditions are likely with spells of rain and showers. Though drier weather is expected between any bouts of wetter weather. These drier interludes will tend to last longer across the south and east of England. Temperatures are most likely to be near or slightly above average overall, with some warm or very warm weather possible.



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You might have been able to transplant your potted tomatoes outdoors or indoors last weekend, while the moon was in the prime fire constellation, the Lion.

If you haven't managed yet, don't worry as with the cooler weather coming you have a tiny window for planting your fruiting plants outdoors, though the moon is ascending slightly, while in the constellation of the archer on the 2. & 3. June.



Transplanting Tomato Plants

The best time for transplanting tomatoes is, when they have the first flowers opening up.

This will encourage more flowering and subsequently abundant fruiting.

When I transplant tomatoes, I make sure I dig holes of 1 cubic foot of volume, 45cm apart in the row and 60 cm between rows.

I open the subsoil with a fork and add two spadefuls of a half rotted horse manure compost or a rich compost from garden weeds, comfrey, nettles and kitchen waste and mix them well with the subsoil and then flood the hole with water to saturate the mix with water, so roots will grow down deeply into the zone where they can access more groundwater (possibly use a ferment for this procedure to enrich the subsoil and compost added).

Make sure you mix in 300-500 grams of hoof and horn and bonemeal per wheelbarrow of compost. If you can't find an organic source of those, you can alternatively add the 1 kg of basalt and fish meal or water your compost mix well with a strong nettle or comfrey ferment.

Mix another two spadefuls of your compost mix into the excavated topsoil and fill the hole to then transplant your tomatoes into this mixture, planting them 1-2 inches deeper after taking off the bottom leaves.

This will encourage more rooting and a faster take off after the shock of transplanting.

If you lack enough tomato plants to fill your polytunnel, you can always plant them at 80cm

apart in the row and rows 60cm apart and then pinch out the top shoot and start training later two shoots up a string, suspended from an overhead wire.

This will according to many commercial growers in Germany double the yield per m².

I have done it before, and it is really worth trying.



Tomato Care after Transplanting

Pinch out all sideshoots and collect for making a ferment for future application for brassica family to deter cabbage white butterfly and increase growth rate in brassicas particularly after transplanting, when they are most vulnerable.

Make sure you string up the tomatoes right after planting with a simple knot using jute string and making sure the diameter of the knot will accommodate the growth of the stem during the growing season.

Alternatively, for the cucumber family plants use the same procedure and quantities of compost for transplanting, but use well-rotted compost instead of the fresher compost.



Wishing you a joyful time with your fruit vegetable culture,

Hans-Günther (Wholistic Living University)

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