



**Tomato seeds are planted outside in late spring and early summer. Seeds are also started inside and transplanted outside when the ground warms up.**



**Tomatoes need between 6-8 hours of sunlight each day. The farmer may need to stake, trellis or cage the plants to keep them off the ground.**



**Tomato plants put out clusters of flowers that are pollinated by bees. Each tomato grows where the flower fell off.**



**Tomatoes come in a variety of colors, shapes and sizes.  
As they ripen their color goes from green to  
yellow to bright orange-red.**



**Tomatoes are picked when they show a deep color and are firm when gently squeezed. They are available at farmers' markets throughout the summer in Massachusetts.**



**Tomatoes are used in many delicious hot and cold dishes, such as salsa. They can be frozen, canned, or dried.**



**Tomato plants will not survive in cold weather and must be planted each year.**