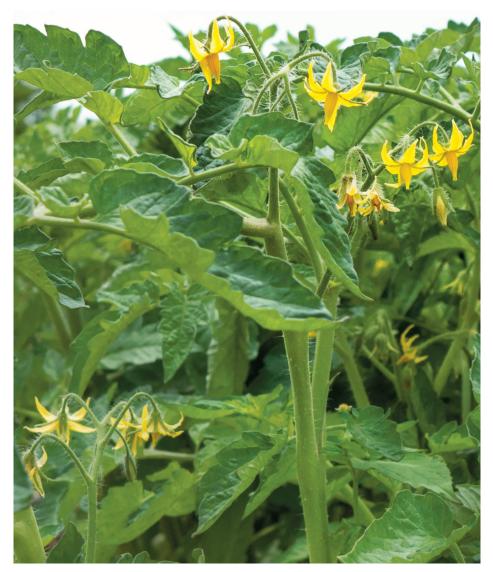




Tomato seeds are planted outside in late spring and early summer. Seeds are also started inside and transplanted outside when the ground warms up.



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.



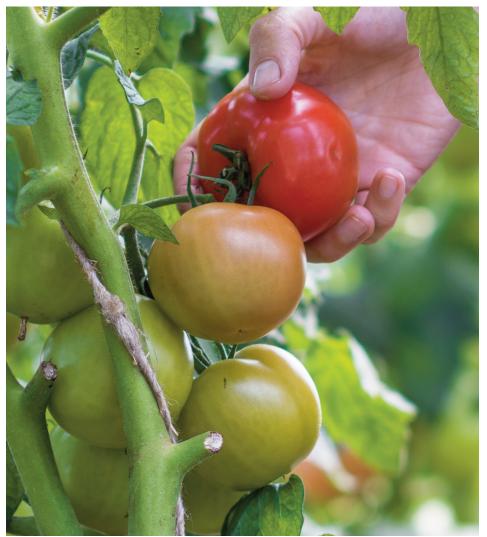


Tomato plants put out clusters of flowers that are pollinated by bees. Each tomato grows where the flower fell off.



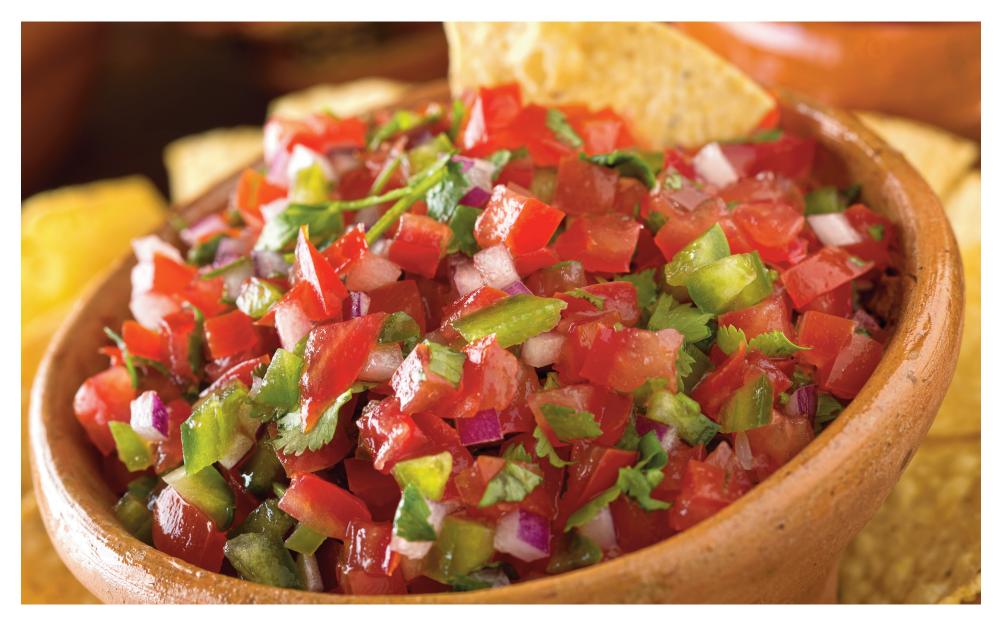
Tomatoes come in a variety of colors, shapes and sizes.

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.