Tomato Cages, Stakes, Trellises, Containers

Growing in Containers

Choose a Container

LARGE!
Good Drainage
Soilless Mix

Container Size

Appropriate for variety and space
- MINIMUM = 1 gallon pot, very small plants
- At least = 5 gallon pot, most compact types
- LARGE = 15-30 gallon pot, full size plants
Soil Mix & Additives

- Soilless potting mix
- SoilMoist? Compost?
- Fertilizer – Osmocote / slow release
- Liquid fertilizer 1x per week, after fruit set

Watering

- Plan on daily watering during the summer
- Water until it drains out the drainage holes in the bottom

Location

- At least 6-8 hours of sun
- Easy to water and observe

Tomatoes for Containers

**Demo Last Year**
- Maskotka
- Firecracker
- Little Napoli*
- Patio Plum*
- Early Doll

**Other Varieties**
- Anything compact!
- Lizzano
- ‘Patio …’
- Tumbling Tom*
- Tumbler

Caging, Staking, Trellising
Improve airflow (prevent disease).

Improve fruit quality.

Efficient Use of Space

Methods of Going Vertical

• Cages
• Staking
• Teepee type trellises
• Vertical twine or metal
• A-Frame

• Bigger & sturdier is better
• Usually “cage and let it grow”
Staking & Tying

- Individual Stakes
  - Requires heavy pruning (single leader)

- Stake & Weave
  - Tomatoes

Stake & Weave

Visit: [https://www.growingagreenerworld.com/ultimate-tomato-cage/](https://www.growingagreenerworld.com/ultimate-tomato-cage/)
Trellising

Teepee Trellises
- 3-4 main supports
- Add string, twine or mesh

Vertical Trellises
- Metal framed
- Can be twine or metal panels

Arbors
A-Frame Trellises

Cattle Panel
- Metal fencing
- 50” x 16’
- Cost ≈ $20

Trellis adds 48 sq. ft.!

Construction
- With bolt cutters, cut panel in half
- Secure two halves at top with strong cable ties
- Set up vertically

Construction
- Measure width at second rung
- Using table saw, cut PVC pipe to match width, saw 1 ½” notch at each end
Panel Installation

- Place bottom sections (4-6 feet apart)
- Poke bottom wires of panels into soil
- If using side-by-side panels, secure together with cable ties

Questions?