



GROWING GREAT TOMATOES!

Brandon Merchant

- Owner of Southwest Victory Gardens
- Former Pima County Certified Master Gardener
- Former President of Tucson Organic Gardeners
- SmartScape Certified

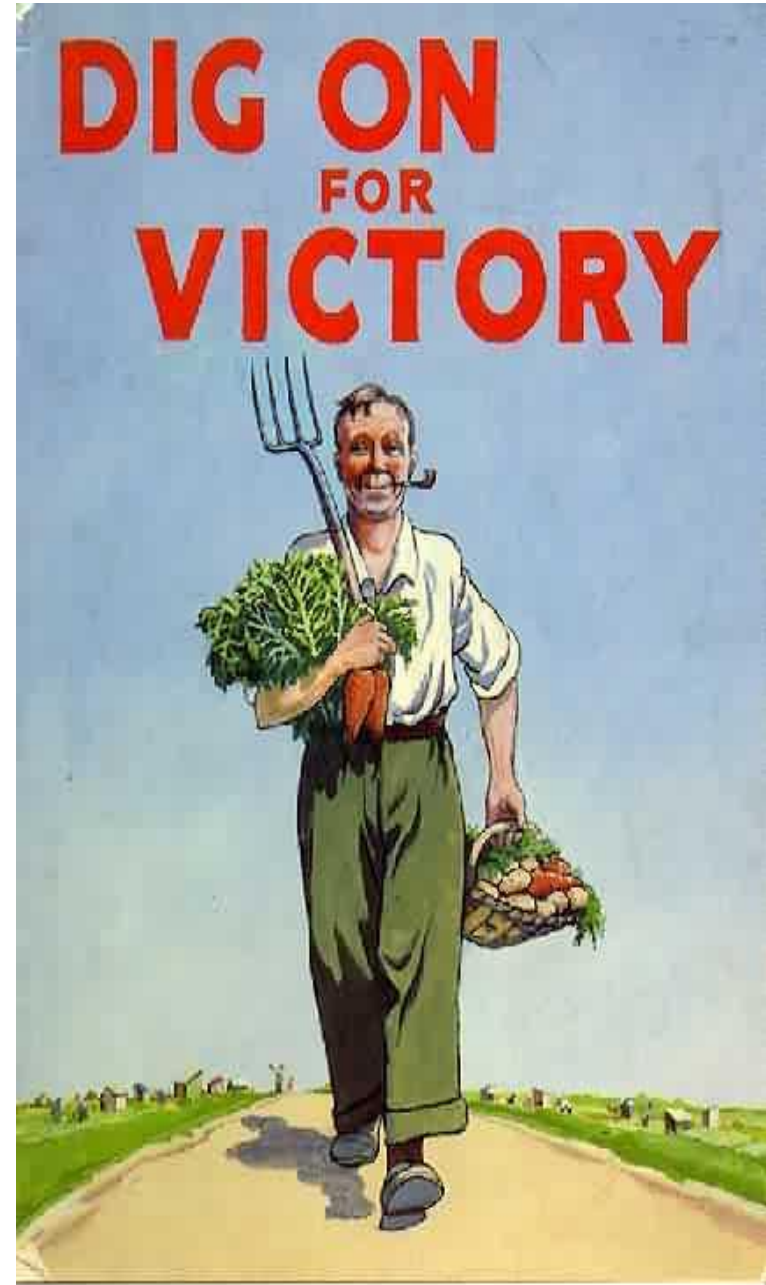




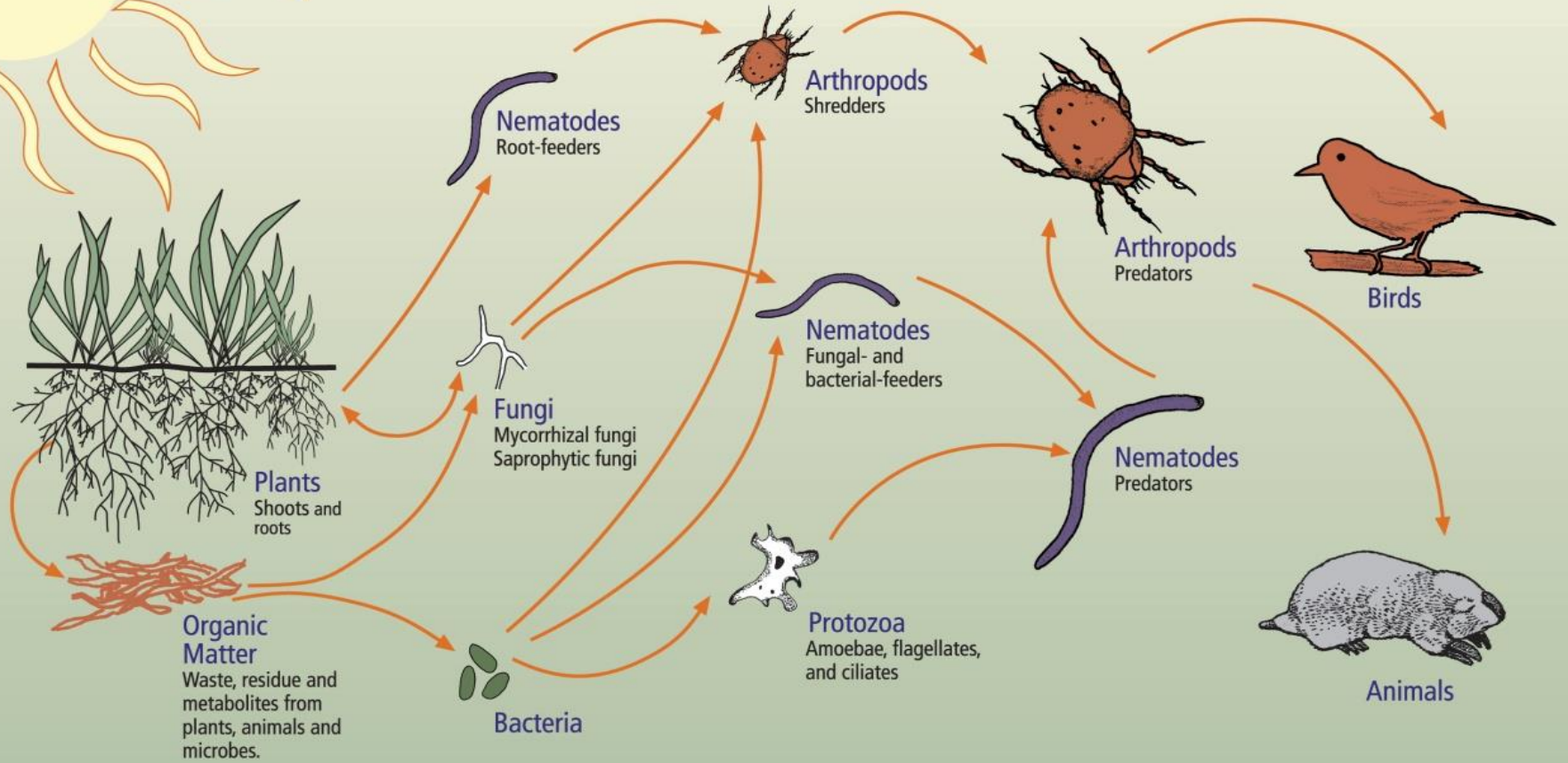
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Our Philosophy

- Healthy soil encourages healthy plants
- Healthy plants require fewer pesticides and fertilizers (inputs)
- Limit external inputs
- Reduce water usage
- Garden with our climate not against it
- Encourage a natural ecosystem



The Soil Food Web



First trophic level:
Photosynthesizers

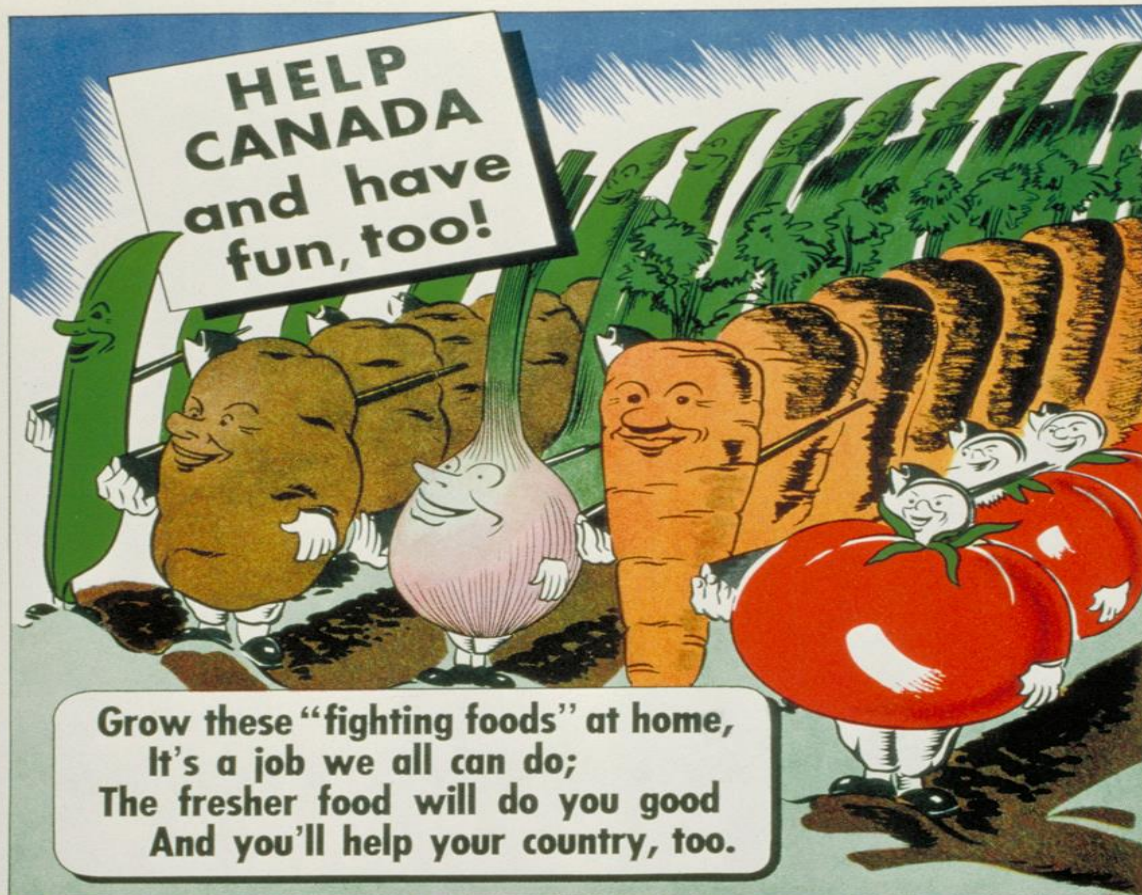
Second trophic level:
Decomposers
Mutualists
Pathogens, Parasites
Root-feeders

Third trophic level:
Shredders
Predators
Grazers

Fourth trophic level:
Higher level predators

Fifth and higher trophic levels:
Higher level predators

Why Grow Tomatoes



- Easy To Grow
- Taste
- Nutrients
- It's Fun!

Start your
VICTORY GARDEN
Today!

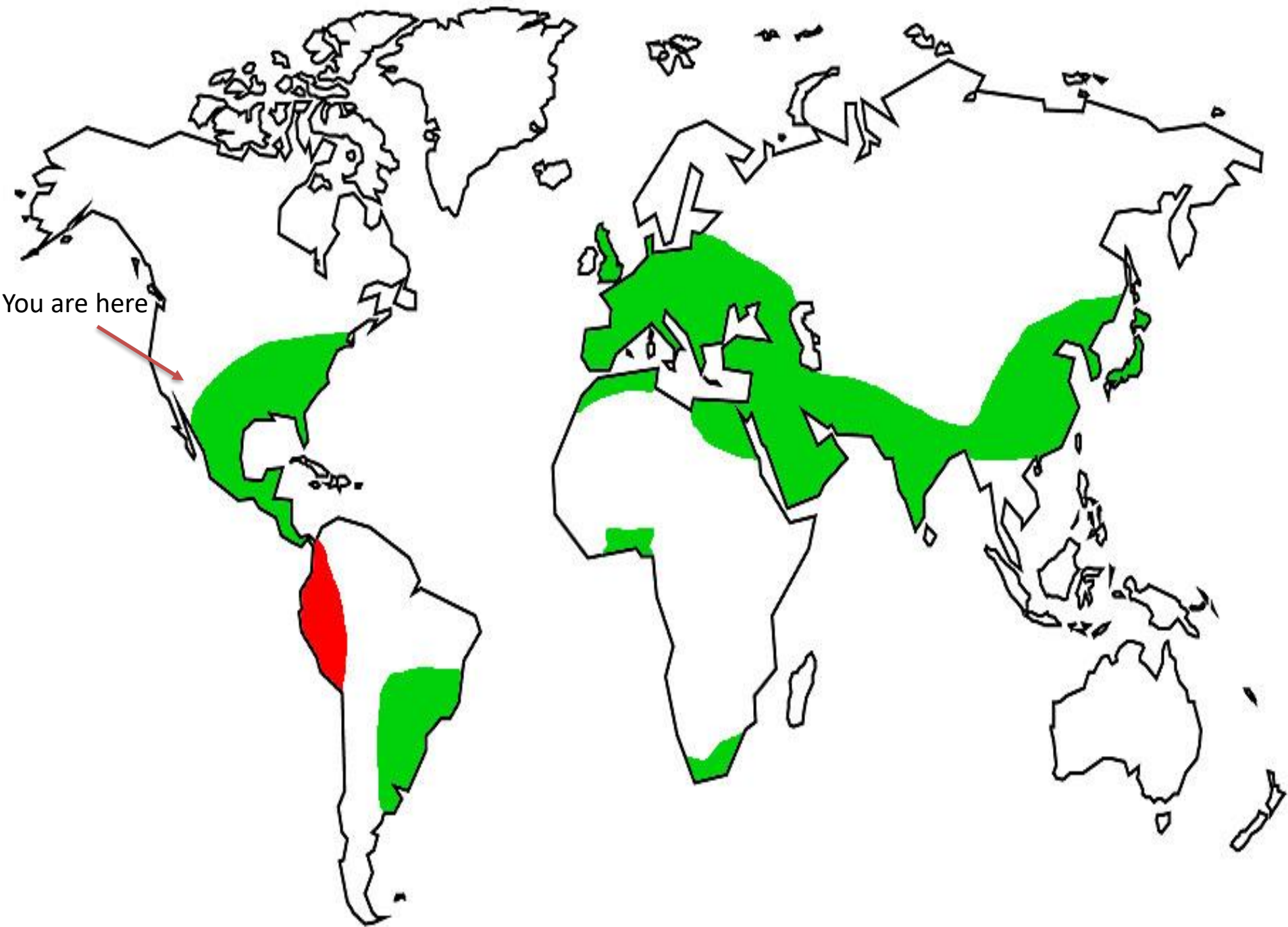
HEALTH LEAGUE OF CANADA (INDUSTRIAL DIVISION), TORONTO

The Nightshade Family - Solanaceae

- Tomato
- Eggplant
- Chilies
- Potato
- Tomatillo
- Ground Cherry
- Chichiquelite
- Many Natives



You are here



Science
AAAS

Nightshade Family





Tucson
Organic
Gardeners

soiling our hands since 1971

TUCSON ORGANIC GARDENERS PLANTING GUIDE

FOR TUCSON AND THE LOW DESERT

Jan 1 – Feb 15

FROM SEED

Arugula, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Cilantro, Collards, Dill, Fennel, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard Parsley, Bulb Onion (See Graphic), Potato

FROM SEEDLING TRANSPLANT

Artichoke, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Cilantro, Collards, Dill, Fennel, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard, Parsley, Spinach, Swiss Chard.

April 15 – May 31

FROM SEED

Amaranth, Basil, Cantaloupe, Cowpea, Cucumber, Malabar Spinach, Melon, Okra, Sorghum, Sweet Potato Slips, Summer Squash, Watermelon

FROM SEEDLING TRANSPLANT

Basil, Eggplant, Pepper

July 15 – August 31

FROM SEED

Bush Beans, Pole Beans, Corn (all types), Cowpea, Cucumber, Cantaloupe, I'tois Onion (See Graphic), Pumpkin, Sorghum Summer and Winter Squash

FROM SEEDLING TRANSPLANT

Tomato (July 15 - Aug 15)

Oct 15 - Nov 15

FROM SEED

Beets, Carrots, Garlic, Greens, Lettuce, Mustard, Pea, Radish, Turnip, Wheat (December – January)

FROM SEEDLING TRANSPLANT

Broccoli, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Cilantro, Collards, Dill, Fennel, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard Parsley, Spinach, Swiss Chard

LATE WINTER

SPRING

LATE SPRING

EARLY SUMMER

MONSOON

EARLY FALL

LATE FALL

March 1 – April 15

FROM SEED

Amaranth, Basil, Bush Bean, Corn (Sweet), Cucumber, Jerusalem Artichoke, Malabar Spinach, Melon, Pumpkin, Sesame, Sorghum, Summer and Winter Squash, Tobacco, Watermelon

FROM SEEDLING TRANSPLANT

Basil, Eggplant, Pepper, Tomato, Tomatillo

June 1 – June 15

FROM SEED

Pole Beans, Cantaloupe, Cowpea, Melon, Sweet Potato Slips

Sep 1 – Oct 15

FROM SEED

Arugula, Beet, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrot, Cauliflower, Celery, Chia, Chicory, Chinese Cabbage, Cilantro, Collards, Escarole, Fava, Garbanzo, Greens, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leek, Lentils, Lettuce, Mache, Mustard, Onion (See Graphic), Parsley, Parsnip, Pea, Radish, Rape, Rutabaga, Turnip, Spinach, Swiss Chard

FROM SEEDLING TRANSPLANT

Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Cilantro, Dill, Fennel, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard, Parsley, Spinach, Swiss Chard

ONIONS



"SHORT-DAY" BULB ONION SETS
January 1 – February 15

TOHONO O'ODHAM I'TTOIS MULTIPLIER ONION
July 15 – February 1

GREEN BUNCHING/SCALLION
August 15 – February 1



Choosing the Right Tomato - Type

- Cherry/Grape
- Pear
- Salad/Slicer/Globe
- Beefsteak
- Roma/Plum





burpee's matchless
mexico midget

bisignano 2
lillian's red
favorite

big boy
nepal
giant syrian
magnus

arkansas traveler
ferris wheel
mortgage lifter / halloday
polish

stump of the world
german johnson
rosella purple
dwarf wild fred

black krim
cherokee chocolate
japanese tricolor black
egg yolk

lemon drop
golden queen
sweet sue
summertime gold

lillian's yellow
hugh's
tiny tim yellow
sungold

blazing beauty
yellow oxheart
yellow brandywine
kellogg's breakfast

cherokee green
tiger tom
red zebra

green zebra
speckled roman
don's double delight
lucky cross

ruby gold
green giant
german striped

coyote
yellow white

29

48

Growth Habits of Tomatoes



- **Indeterminant**
 - Large Vigorous Plants
 - Climbs like a Vine
 - Produces over Long Season
 - Perennial
- **Determinant**
 - Short Stocky Plants
 - Do not require staking
 - Produces crop all at once
 - Annual

Desirable Traits for Tomatoes

- < 75 Days to Harvest
- Smaller Varieties
- Heat Tolerance
- Drought Tolerance
- Disease Resistance
- Flavor
- Color



Disease Resistance

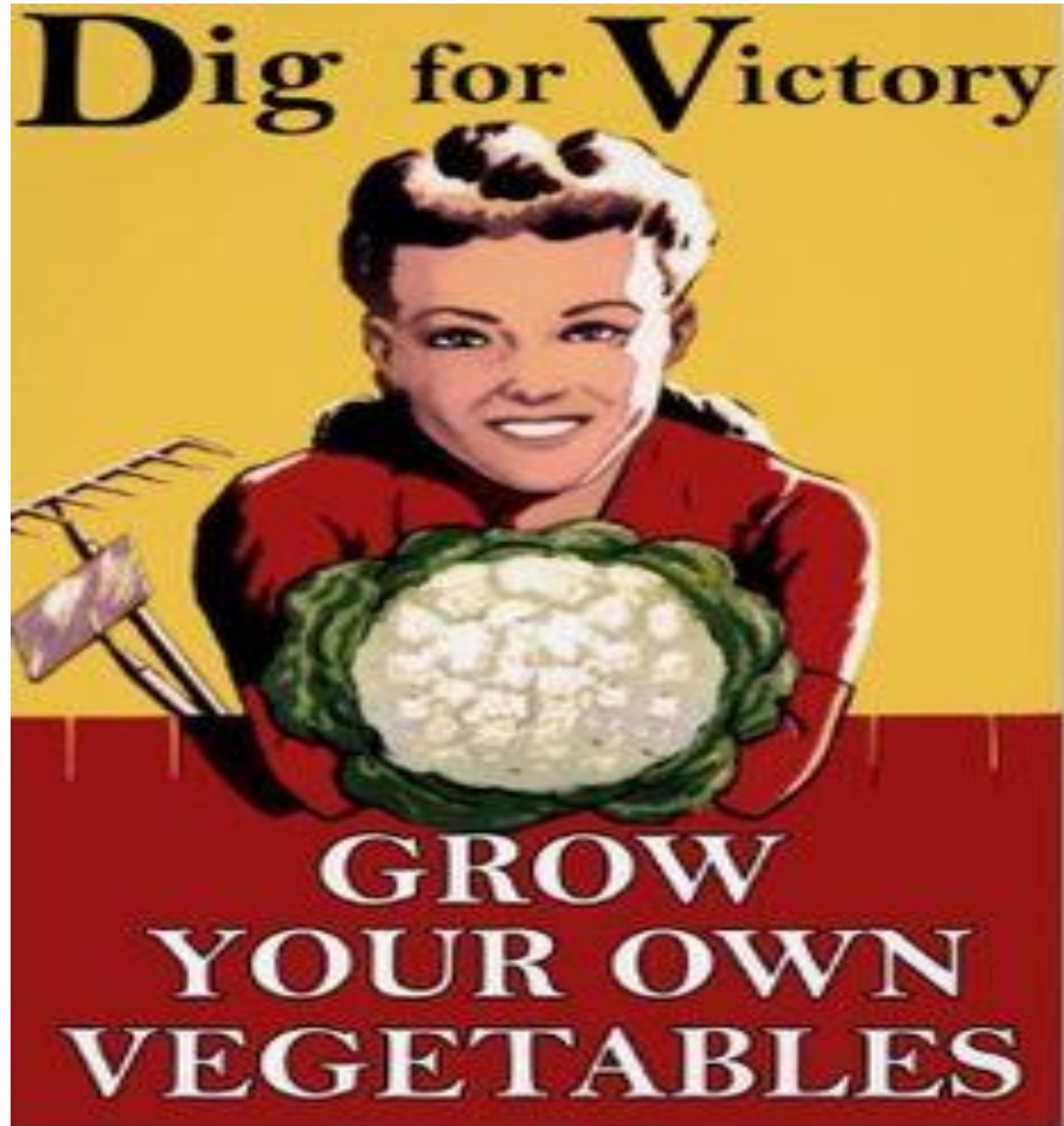


- V – Verticillium Wilt
- F or FF – Fusarium Wilt
- N – Root Knot Nematodes
- T or TMV – Tobacco Mosaic Virus
- A – Alternaria Leaf Spot
- ASC – Alternaria Stem Canker
- L – Septoria Leaf Spot
- ST – Stemphylium Grey Leaf Spot
- SWV – Spotted Wilt Virus
- LB – Late Blight

TYPES OF SEEDS

- **4 Types of Seeds:**

- Heirloom
- Open Pollinated.
- Hybrid or F1.
- GMO or GE



ANATOMY OF A SEED PACKET



- Name
- Type
- Season
- Days to Maturity
- Clues
- Expiration Date



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- Type
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Growing Tomatoes from Seed



- Indoors or in GH
- Special Equipment
- Potting Mix

Growing From Transplants

- Healthy Vigorous Plants
- Local Growers
- Local Nurseries



Growing Great Tomatoes



- Prep the Soil
 - Dig Down 2'
 - 50/50 Compost and Native Soil
 - Add Organic Fertilizer

Growing Great Tomatoes

- Use Large Containers
 - 5 Gallon Bucket is Minimum
 - 18" or Larger is Best
- DIY Potting Mix
 - Compost – 1 Part
 - Coco Coir – 2 Parts
 - Vermiculite – ½ Part
 - Perlite – ½ Part
 - Organic Fertilizer



Create a Micro-Climate

- 6 – 8 Hours Full Sun
- Group for Humidity
- Shade Cloth Optional
- Water Deeply and Infrequently



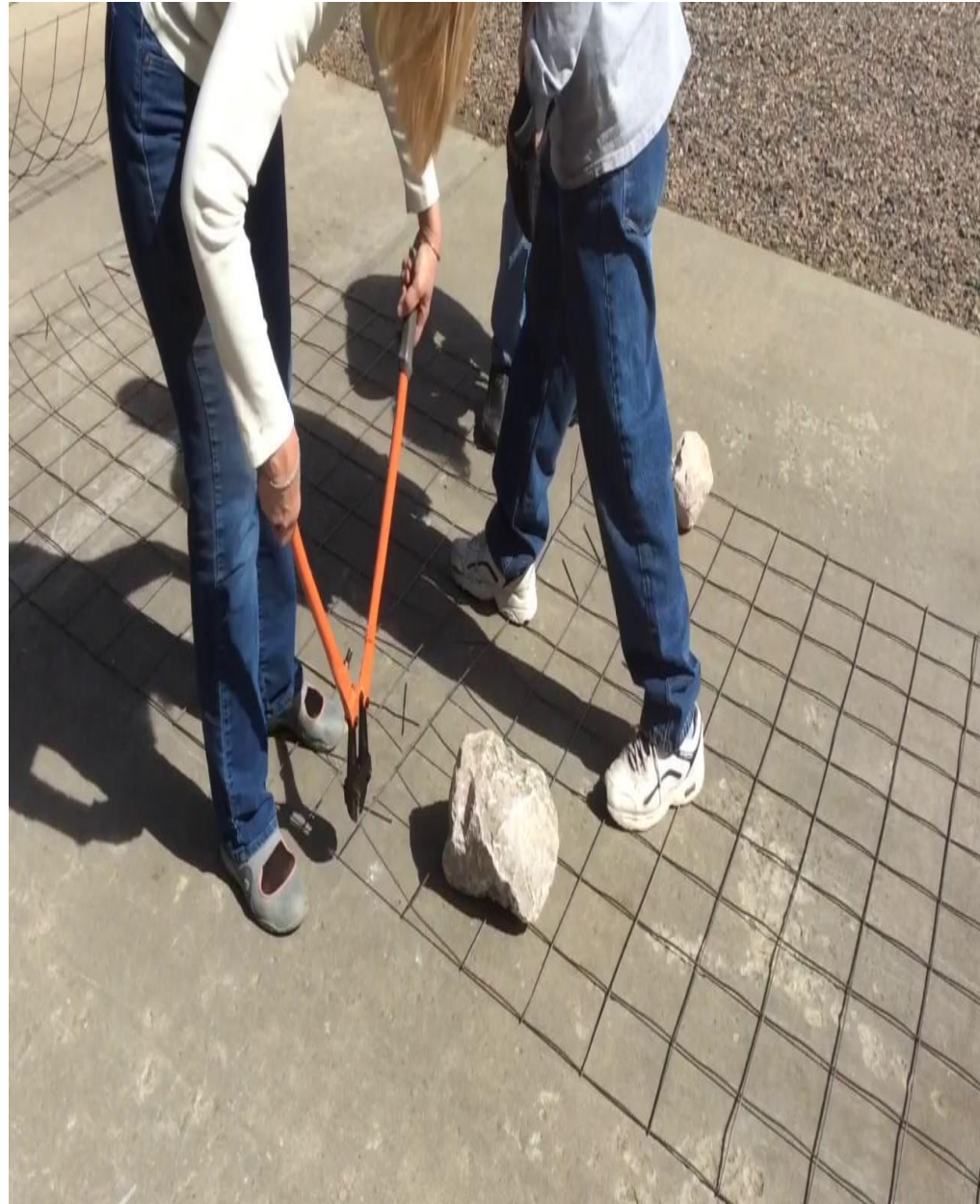
Strategies for Success



- Sideways or Trench Planting
- Deep Planting

More Strategies for Success

- Use Heavy Duty Cages
- Avoid Pruning
- Grow Seasonally
- Avoid Pesticides













When to Harvest



- Harvest to Taste
- Juice of Tomatoes more Acidic
- Fruit Wall more sugar and amino acids
- More Aroma in Skin and Wall
- Leave to Mature on Vine

Saving Seed

- Heirloom and OP Varieties
- 6 Plants or More
- Allow Fruit to Fully Mature
- Ferment for Best Results



RESOURCES

- Seed Catalogs
- EcoGro
- Resource List
- Gardening Clubs
- Local Businesses
- Friends and Family





Thank you!

www.southwestvictorygardens.com/Documents

(520) 576-7085