



Tomatillo

Produced by:



THE LAND
CONNECTION

When to Start Seeds:

Plant seeds indoors in mid-to-late April

When to Plant Starts or Seedlings Outdoors:

June 1, using plants that are at least 5 weeks old

Container Size for Container Gardening:

Use a 13 gallon container that is approximately 18-24 inches wide and 18 inches deep

Ground Spacing for In-Ground Gardening:

24-28 inches of space between plants

**Hours of
Sunlight:**

12+ per day

**Amount
of Water:**

15 cups per week

Harvest:

Days Until Harvest: 35-45 days from planting outdoors

Allow the tomatillo to completely fill the husk before you harvest. Once tomatillos begin to ripen (they will still be green), check the plant daily for fruit. Cradle fruit gently in hand and pull down slightly and away from the plant. Store fruit on the counter.

Remove husk and rinse sticky residue from fruit before eating.



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The information provided in this card is not exact for every growing experience and was designed for Champaign, Illinois in Zone 5b. You should read your seed packet or consult your local Extension agent for questions specific to your growing conditions.

Planting:

Plant seeds in 2-inch square by 3-inch deep containers with potting soil or seed starting mix. Seeds should be planted 1/4 inch below the soil and kept damp and warm (86 degrees Fahrenheit) until plants appear. After the danger of frost has passed, overnight temperatures are around 50 degrees, and plants are 5 weeks old, you can plant in ground 24-28 inches apart or one plant per 18- or 24-inch wide by 18-inch deep container.

Care:

Keep the area around the plant free of weeds. Use a liquid fertilizer 4 weeks after growing begins. Give plants a little water every 3-4 days, either from rain or faucet, trying to maintain about 15 cups of water per week. Water plants in the morning, if possible, since plants produce nutrients during the day and need water to do this. Cages or trellising should be used to keep plants off the ground.

Pests & Disease:

Watch for tomato hornworms feeding on leaves and damaging fruit or killing plants. Remove by hand and smash, use for fishing bait, or dispose away from tomatillo and tomato plants. Many diseases can be managed by providing fertilizer and water regularly, having good airflow without overcrowded plants, and keeping water off of the leaves.

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