

# Scheduling a Greenhouse Tomato Crop

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**G**reenhouse tomatoes are usually scheduled to come into production when field tomatoes are not available. In northern sections of the country, such as New England, the field production season occurs late in the summer and is short in duration. As a result, greenhouse tomato growers in Connecticut and other parts of New England find they can market greenhouse tomatoes through most of the summer and still get a good price.

The time interval between sowing a crop and harvesting ripe fruit will vary with the season, since the rate of seedling and fruit development are affected by temperature. Light during seedling development will also affect the timing of initial flowering. Under ideal conditions of high light and warm temperatures, it will take about eight weeks from seeding until the first flowers open and another eight weeks from flowering until first harvest. Seedlings are generally transplanted into the production greenhouse two to three weeks before flowering. Under less than ideal conditions, the period from seed to harvest will be longer than 16 weeks.

Use the schedules listed below as a general guide. Remember, the actual time required will vary between cultivars and with the light and temperature conditions in your greenhouse.

<i>Crop Season</i>	<i>Development Stage</i>	<i>Time interval</i>	<i>Weeks from seed</i>
<b>Early spring</b>	Seed	Oct 25-Nov 25	—
	Transplant	Jan 1-Jan 15	9-10
	Harvest	April 1-July	22-23
<b>Late spring</b>	Seed	Dec 15-Jan 15	—
	Transplant	Feb 1-March 1	6-7
	Harvest	May 1-July	19-20
<b>Fall</b>	Seed	June 15-July 15	—
	Transplant	July 20-Aug 15	5
	Harvest	Oct 1-Dec	16