



# TOMATO FARMING

## Farming Season

In high and mid hills rainy season and in lowland and terai regions winter season. Tomatoes cannot stand extreme temperatures.

Month/ Region	Apr/ May	May/ Jun	Jun/ Jul	Jul/ Aug	Aug/ Sep	Sep/ Oct	Oct/ Nov	Nov/ Dec	Dec/ Jan	Jan/ Feb	Feb/ Mar	Mar/ Apr
 High hills												
 Mid hills												
 Valley and Terai												

## Breeds

- N.C.L. 1
- Pusa Ruby

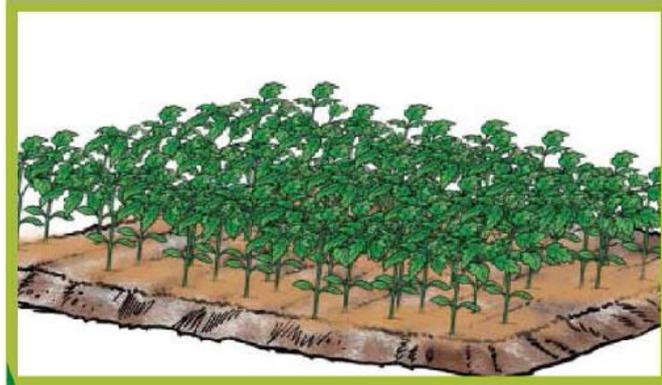
## Nursery

A warm nursery or a plastic greenhouse is needed during the winter season. Ridges and sheds covering it are needed during the rainy season.



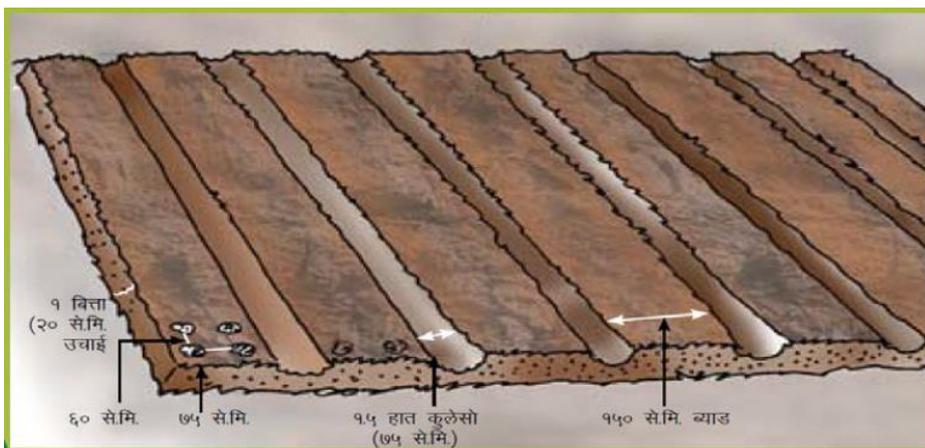
### Seed and Saplings

- Seeds: 10 g per 0.05 hectare land
- Sapling: 2,000–2,500 saplings per 0.05 hectare land
- Good yield can be had by using good quality seeds.



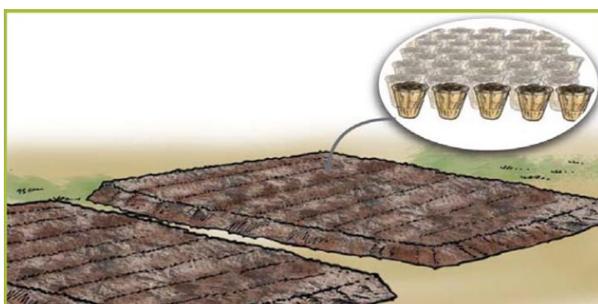
### Preparation of Land

- The land should be ploughed 30 cm deep.
- Outlets should be provided by building high furrows during rainy season
- Food nutrients can be better utilised if the saplings are planted after the land is dug deep and fertilisers are applied.



### Fertilizer

- Well-decomposed organic fertilizers should be applied at the rate of 120 baskets (approximately 3 MT) per 0.05 hectare land.

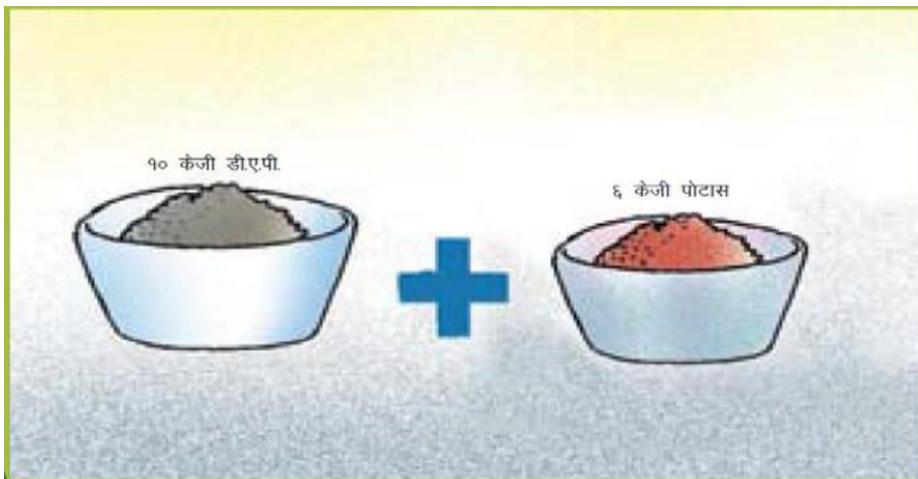


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- One handful of ash should be put in each hole.



- In case of use of chemical fertilizer, 10 kg of D.A.P. and Muriate of potash should be applied per 0.05 hectare land during the final preparation of land.



### Transplanting of Saplings

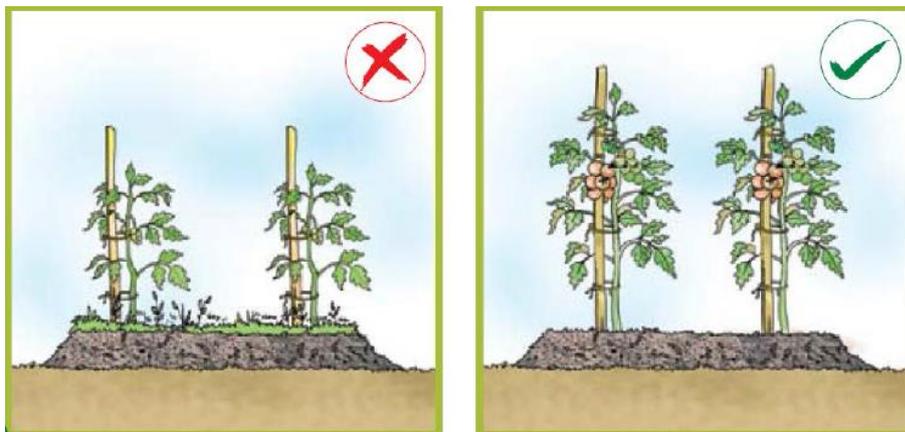
- It would be appropriate to transplant when plants have 4–5 leaves.
- Saplings should always be transplanted in the evening.
- The saplings become ready to be transplanted after 3 to 4 weeks of sowing the seeds.



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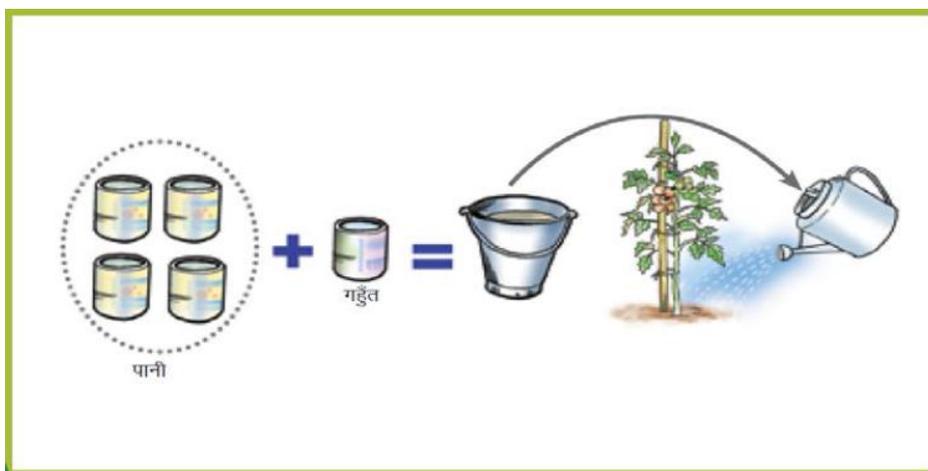
Weed Control

- Weeds should not be allowed to grow near tomato plants.

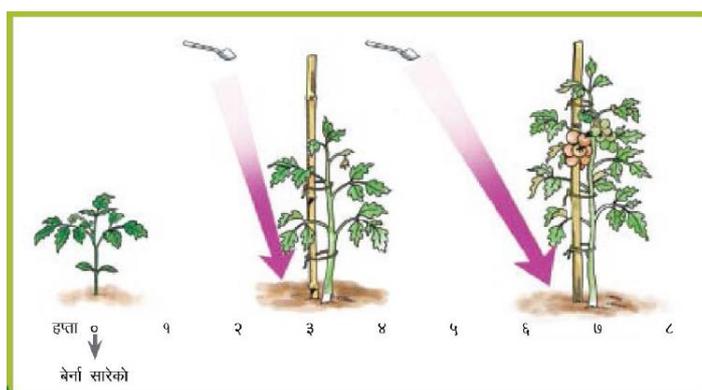


Additional Fertilizer

- 250 ml of mixture of cattle urine and water should be applied to the plants each time after picking large quantities of tomato.



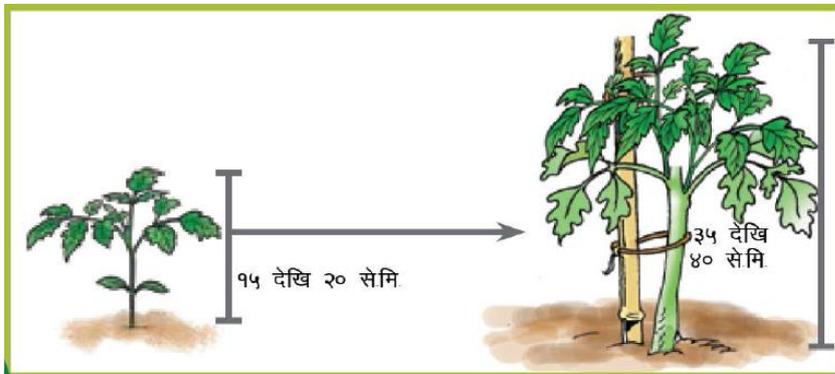
- Within 3–4 weeks and then again within 6–7 weeks of transplanting the saplings, 1 tablespoon of urea can be applied on each plant as additional fertilizer.
- The plant should be watered after properly covering their roots with soil.



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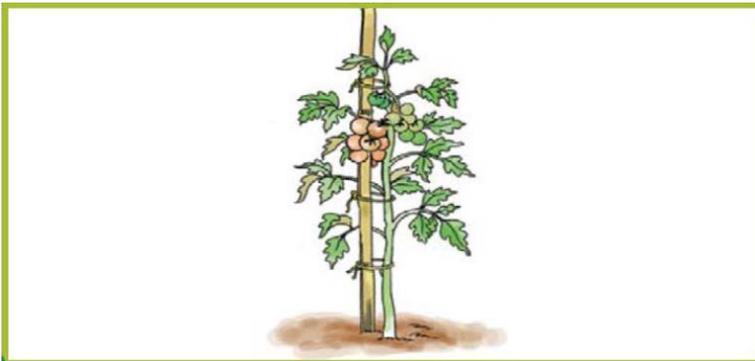
### Cutting and Pruning

- The plant should be allowed to have only 2 branches after it reaches 15 to 20 cm height after removing their upper nodules.
- Similarly, it is ideal to keep four branches after cutting the top ends after the plants have reached 35–40 cm in height.
- As branches come out from each node of the tomato plant, it is recommended to cut the shoots to stop the growth of branches.



### Support

- It is easy to give one support to each plant to climb.
- Joint support can be given in a larger tomato farm to make cutting and pruning easier.



### Tomato Picking

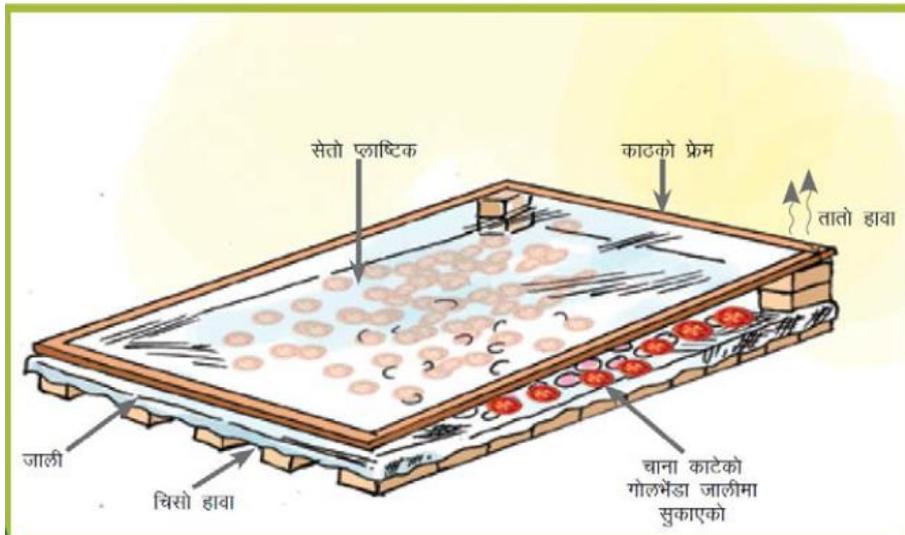
- Tomatoes can be picked before they become red.
- Tomatoes should be picked when they are slightly yellowish in colour and can be used for domestic consumption and for selling in the market.



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### Protection

- Tomatoes can be cut into small pieces and dried for off-season use.
- Inexpensive solar dryers can be built to dry the cut pieces of tomato



(Source: Krishak Sahayogi Pustika)

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Written by READ Nepal and Practical Action Nepal and translated by Binaya Parajuli in September 2015.

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