

Saving Seed from Tomatoes

1 Select the tomato plant/s you wish to save seed from. Let the fruit ripen fully either on the plant or after being picked.

2 Cut the tomato open to expose the seed then scrape out using a spoon into a small bowl. Here will be seed and pulp together.

3 Add a small amount of water to the bowl to just cover the seed and pulp.

4 Let the seed ferment. This will take a couple of days. A crusty mould layer will form on top of the seed mixture. Fermenting is important to do as it kills soil borne diseases that may be carried by the seed. Ensure the bowl is not in direct sunlight and check daily to ensure seeds don't germinate.

5 Wash seed through a fine sieve to remove pulp and other material.

6 Spread cleaned seed over either a ceramic plate or glossy magazine page to fully dry. Seeds are more easily removed from these surfaces.

7 Package seed into a paper envelope with labelling indicating variety and date collected.

Remember to complete a data sheet if you're depositing the seed in the Seed Savers' seed bank, so we can all know what's great about it!

Final tip – Just before sowing next season dip your seed into boiling water then remove immediately.

This also helps break disease cycles without having to use chemicals.

