

Edible Gardening Series with Sarah Bostick and Carol Wyatt-Evens UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County

Resources from Session 14: Tomatoes 101 - Tips for choosing the right varieties and trellises

Florida gardening books and planting guides:

- *Vegetable Gardening in Florida* by James Stephens (book)
- *Organic Methods for Vegetable Gardening in Florida* by Ginny Stibolt and Melissa Contreras (book)
- University of Florida online planting guides. Find the whole list here:
<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/planting/vegetable-gardens-by-season.html#:~:text=In%20Florida%2C%20fall%20is%20an,%2C%20Brussels%20sprouts%2C%20and%20radishes.>
- Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide (11-page UFL publication): <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>

Tomato trellises

- This website is home to 53 creative tomato trellising ideas complete with photos, descriptions, and cost estimates: <https://www.epicgardening.com/tomato-trellis-ideas/>

Tomato varieties

- There are literally thousands of named varieties of tomatoes in the world! Here are a few sources to get you started in learning about the incredible diversity of tomatoes on our planet.
 - Over 100 varieties heirloom varieties of every size, shape and color imaginable: <https://www.rareseeds.com/catalogsearch/result/?q=tomatoes>
 - Hundreds of varieties grown on Rutgers University research farm: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/tomato-varieties/>
- If you live in Florida, this University of Florida guide helps you choose the best tomato for your garden: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/HS/HS118900.pdf> . Note that it is organized into two sections: North Florida and Central/South Florida.

Q: Our city has recycled irrigation water. Is this water good for tomatoes and vegetable gardens in general?

A: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection states that reclaimed water should not be directly applied to the surfaces of crops that are not peeled or cooked before being eaten. Let's break this statement down a bit. If you are watering your garden with an overhead sprinkler using reclaimed water, everything grown in your garden – including tomatoes - would have to either be peeled or cooked before you eat it. If you are using drip-irrigation or another type of irrigation system that does not result in water getting onto the plant, you should be able to safely eat everything from your garden.

Here is an excellent blog post about reclaimed water (including a section on what you need to know about using it in your vegetable garden) by Dr. Mary Lusk, an assistant professor and researcher in the UF Soil and Water Sciences Department. <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/2017/06/20/reclaimed-water-frequently-asked-questions/>

Feel free to reach out with questions any time!

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