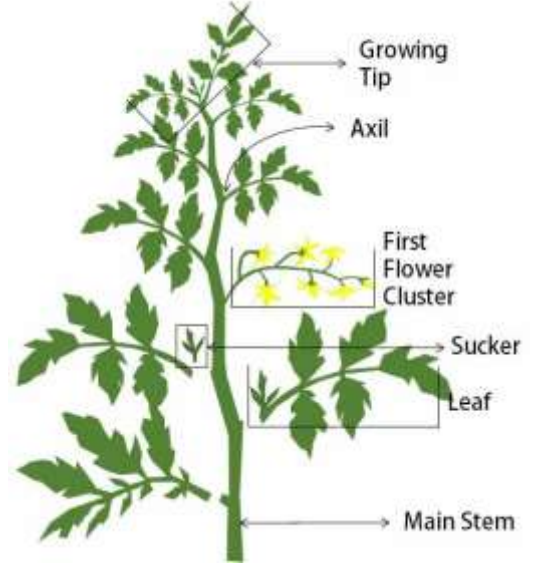




About this Tomato Plant: 'Blush' is a large oval cherry type tomato with shiny yellow fruit, striped with red, developing a warm orange blush when fully ripe. Very low acid, meaty, and super sweet, ideal for salads and snacking. Large clusters and a heavy yield on a vigorous but contained plant. Blight resistant. *Indeterminate.*

DOs:

- Before roots emerge from the base of your peat pot, transplant plant into larger container (12" or larger) with rich, well-draining soil. Consider plant support at point of transplant to avoid breaking stems when the plant gets larger.
- Water regularly and consistently, near the soil of the plant. Tomatoes will need more water when the weather is hot or windy, as the soil will dry out sooner.
- Plant deep and diagonally. Tomato stalks have little bumps and hairs along their main stem, which will transform to roots under the soil and further stabilize your mature plant. Remove the bottom few leaves (leave the "crown" or top 3-4 branches) and plant the stalk as low as possible, allowing stabilizing roots to develop.
- Consider fertilizer, especially when container gardening. Tomatoes benefit from adequate phosphorus, potassium, and calcium in their soil. Soil will
- Support your tomato plant early! Blush tomatoes are an indeterminate tomato variety, meaning that its height and size may quickly get away from you as it vines. You may support your plant using trellising, stakes, or the commercially sold "tomato cages."
- Prune from the bottom up and removing any leaves that appear diseased, sunburnt, or damaged using a sharp and clean blade (pruners, knife, or scissors). Pruning increases airflow, reducing risk of disease. Additionally, pruning excess foliage will force the plant to put its energy into the fruit. Try to prune in dry conditions, as additional moisture in the cut can increase infection.
- When pruning suckers (especially early in the season), try your hand at propagation. These can be treated as baby plants, which with water and soil, will clone of your original plant. Try this when suckers are between 4" to 6" long. When suckers are small (under 2"), they may be soft enough to pinch off with your fingernails but are too small to propagate. *Note: depending on the time of sucker harvest and rooting, consider the delay in plant age and the expected first frost.*
- Hold off on watering right before harvesting your tomatoes. The plant will take on water in the fruits immediately after watering, lessening the sugars and taste of the tomatoes.
- Harvest all fruit before the first frost (ETA late September). If a late spring frost is forecast, bring your tomato indoors for the night or until risk of freezing has passed.
- **Enjoy growing and eating your tomatoes!**



DON'Ts:

- Get water on the leaves of the plant. When in direct sun, water can scorch your leaves and cause damage. In less sunny or humidity rich scenarios, excess water on leaves can cause mildew and disease.
- Allow to wilt for long periods of time. Inconsistent watering can cause blossom end rot, which will cause your tomato to drop its blooms (less blooms = less fruits).
- Rip off branches. Pruning with sharp and clean tools will prevent disease to get inside your plants.
- Allow soil to get soggy or pool water. The roots will rot and your plant may die 😞
- Let suckers get out of hand. "suckers" are little branches that emerge from the cracks or armpits of mature branches. Often, these new branches can overcrowd the canopy of your plant, decreasing essential airflow. These suckers will also take energy from the plant that is better served to be dedicated to the fruits you are trying to harvest! You can, however, try to propagate these suckers in water or soil to clone your original plant if season length remaining permits.
- Cut the top off the plant when pruning. Indeterminate tomatoes will continue to vine vertically (sometimes over 6' tall) and cutting the top off will eliminate any possible future blooms, as the plant will not continue from point of topping. When pruning, focus on the main stems and leaf branches.
- Allow your tomatoes to fall to the ground. It is not only inconvenient to find fruits, but exposes them to pests (Read: slugs, insects, and other critters like rodents).
- Crowd your plants. This is important if you are growing more than just this single tomato plant. If you have other tomatoes, space 2+' apart from each other, unless very diligently pruning for single stems.
- Get discouraged! Plants want to grow, and given the right conditions, will surprise you.