

SCHEDULING A GREENHOUSE TOMATO CROP

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Greenhouse 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 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.

ment will also affect the timing of initial flowering. Under ideal conditions of high light and warm temperatures, it will take about 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.

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 develop-

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.

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Table 1. Scheduling a greenhouse tomato crop.

Crop Season	Development Stage	Time interval	Weeks from seed
Early Spring	Seed	Oct 25-Nov 25	
	Transplant	Jan 1-Jan 15	9-10
	Harvest	April 1-July	22-23
Late Spring	Seed	Dec 15-Jan 15	---
	Transplant	Feb 1-March 1	6-7
	Harvest	May 1-July	19-20
Fall	Seed	June 15-July 15	---
	Transplant	July 20-Aug15	5
	Harvest	Oct 1-Dec	16

