



DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE



Vegetable production

Tomatoes



2002 (Revised)

Compiled by Directorate Agricultural Information Services, Department of Agriculture
in cooperation with
W. Willemse, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture

Illustrations by L. Herbst, Mjindi Farming (Pty) Ltd

Printed and published by Department of Agriculture
and obtainable from Resource Centre, Directorate Agricultural Information Services
Private Bag X144, Pretoria, 0001 South Africa

This publication is available on the web: www.nda.agric.za/publications



Information provided by

ARC-Roodeplaar Vegetable and Ornamental Plant Institute
Tel. (012) 841 9611

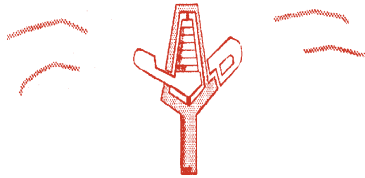
How to plant tomatoes

1. Rip the field if necessary and irrigate if the soil is too dry

Rip



Irrigate

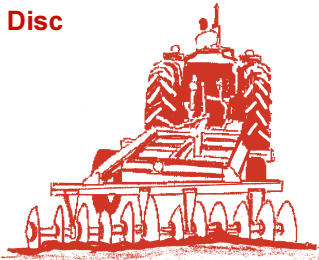


2. Plough and disc the field

Plough



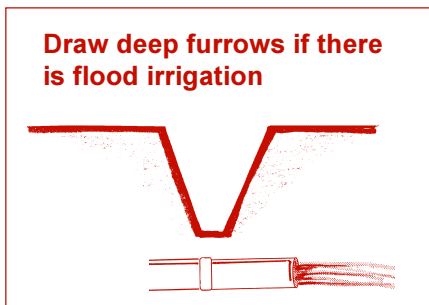
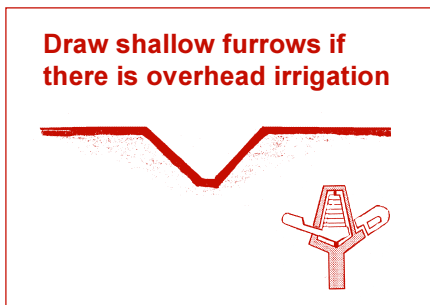
Disc



3. Produce seedlings by sowing the seeds in seedtrays 6 weeks before planting or order from a seedling grower



4. Draw furrows in the field from north to south 1,5 metres apart



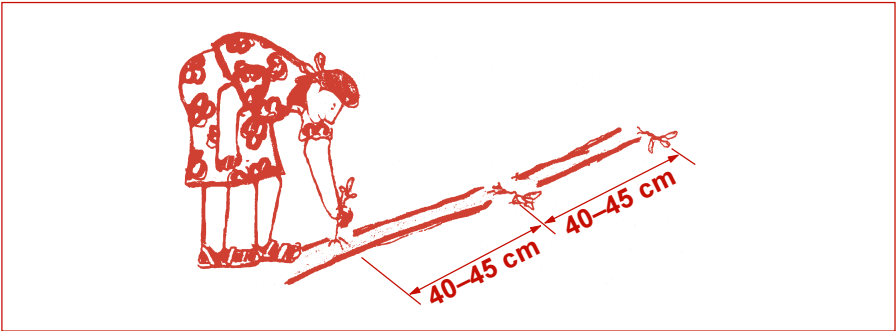
5. Apply fertiliser in ridges using the tin-and-rope method (see inside of back cover page)



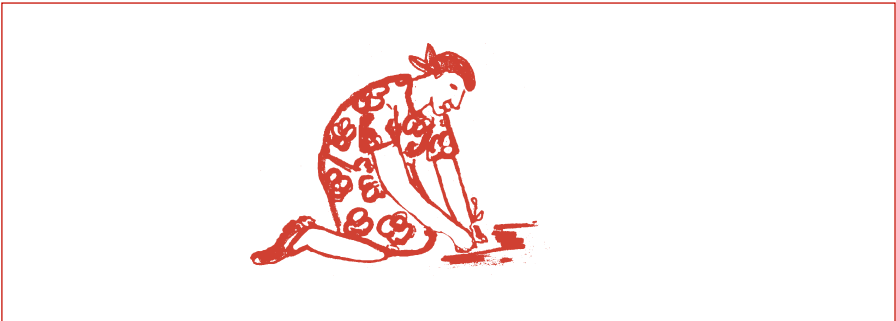
6. Make a furrow on top of every ridge and apply fertiliser



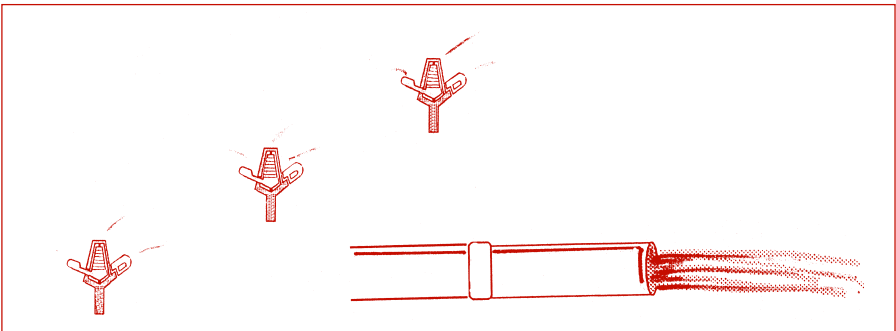
7. Place the seedlings in furrows, 40–45 cm apart



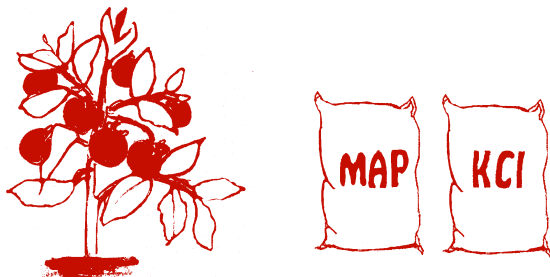
8. Cover the roots of the seedlings with soil. Make sure the roots point straight down and are not bent



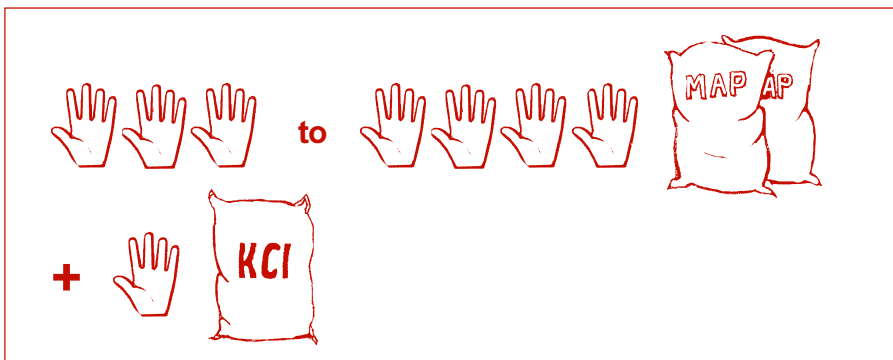
9. Irrigate after planting



How much fertiliser to use



1. Do a soil analysis if necessary. Use 15 to 20 bags of MAP fertiliser + 4 bags of KCI fertiliser per hectare on the soil



2. Use the tin-and-rope method of fertilising



Topdressing

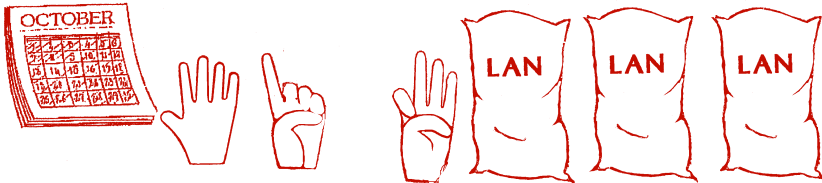
1. Apply the first topdressing after 3 weeks

Use 3 bags of LAN fertiliser per hectare



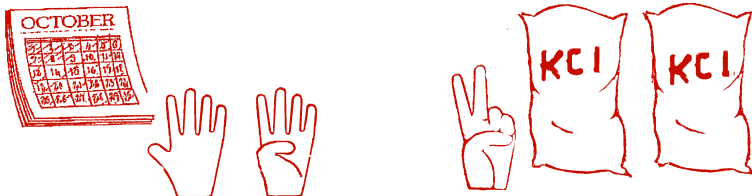
2. Apply the second topdressing after 6 weeks

Use 3 bags of LAN fertiliser per hectare



3. Apply the third topdressing after 9 weeks

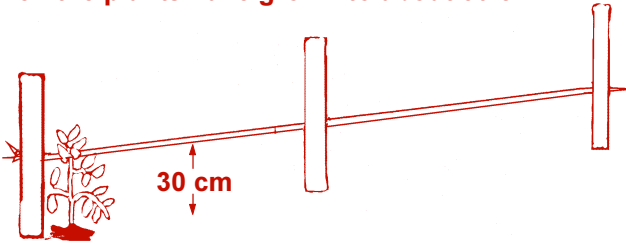
Use 2 bags of KCI fertiliser per hectare



Trellising

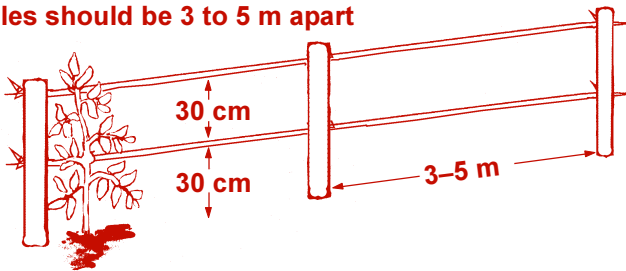
1. Give some support to the tomatoe plants by stringing wire or string onto poles (trellising)

Start when the plants have grown to about 30 cm



2. String more wire or string 30 cm apart as the plants grow

The poles should be 3 to 5 m apart

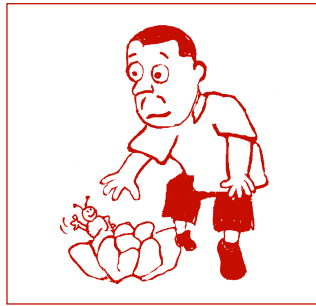


3. Take out the weeds in the tomatoe patch



Control pests and diseases

Spray once a week for early blight, late blight or other diseases. Spray Dithane M45 once a week and add copper oxychloride to every second spray



Spray insects and pests that feed on the tomatoes and their leaves with recommended chemicals

Aphids



Malasol
Lannate

Red spider mite



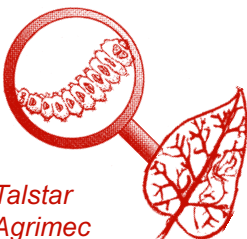
Talstar
Kelthane

Thrips



Malasol
Dursban
Chlorpyrifos

Leafminer



Talstar
Agrimec

American bollworm



Decis
Endosulfan

Loopers



Dursban
Chlorpyrifos

Notes

Tin-and-rope method

The table indicates the approximate rope length in metres at different row spacings, fertiliser product group and application rates that should be used in applying 500 m^l of fertiliser.

Hand application of fertiliser using a 500 m^l container

Row spacing	0,91 m (3'0")				1,00 m (3'3")				1,07 m (3'6")			
Product group	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Application rate at kg/ha	Approximate rope length in metres over which distance the 500 m^l container must be emptied											
100	44,0	48,4	52,7	59,3	40,0	44,0	48,0	54,0	37,4	41,1	44,9	50,5
200	22,0	24,2	26,4	29,7	20,0	22,0	24,0	27,0	18,7	20,6	22,4	25,2
300	14,7	16,1	17,6	19,8	13,3	14,7	16,0	18,0	12,5	13,7	15,0	17,8
400	11,0	12,1	13,2	14,8	10,0	11,0	12,0	13,5	9,3	10,3	11,2	12,6
500	8,8	9,7	10,5	11,9	8,0	8,8	9,6	10,8	7,5	8,2	9,0	10,1
600	7,3	8,1	8,8	9,9	6,7	7,3	8,0	9,0	6,2	6,9	7,5	8,4
700	6,3	6,9	7,5	8,5	5,7	6,3	6,9	7,7	5,3	5,9	6,4	7,2
800	5,5	6,0	6,6	7,4	5,0	5,5	6,0	6,8	4,7	5,1	5,6	6,3
900	4,9	5,4	5,9	6,6	4,4	4,9	5,3	6,0	4,2	4,6	5,0	5,6
1 000	4,4	4,8	5,3	5,9	4,0	4,4	4,8	5,4	3,7	4,1	4,5	5,0

Row spacing	1,22 m (4'0")				1,37 m (4'6")				1,52 m (5'0")			
100	32,8	36,1	39,3	44,3	29,2	32,1	35,0	39,4	26,7	29,3	32,0	36,0
200	16,4	18,0	19,7	22,1	14,6	16,1	17,5	19,7	13,3	14,7	16,0	18,0
300	10,9	12,0	13,1	14,8	9,7	10,7	11,7	13,1	8,9	9,8	10,7	12,0
400	8,2	9,0	9,8	11,1	7,3	8,0	8,8	9,9	6,7	7,3	8,0	9,0
500	6,6	7,2	7,9	8,9	5,8	6,4	7,0	7,9	5,3	5,9	6,4	7,2
600	5,5	6,0	6,6	7,4	4,9	5,4	5,8	6,6	4,4	4,9	5,3	6,0
700	4,7	5,2	5,6	6,3	4,2	4,6	5,0	5,6	3,8	4,2	4,6	5,1
800	4,1	4,5	4,9	5,5	3,6	4,0	4,4	4,9	3,3	3,7	4,0	4,5
900	3,6	4,0	4,4	4,9	3,2	3,6	3,9	4,4	3,0	3,3	3,6	4,0
1 000	3,3	3,6	3,9	4,4	2,9	3,2	3,5	3,9	2,7	2,9	3,2	3,6

Fertiliser product group

A	B	C	D
UREA 1:0:1 (48) 1:0:1 (36) 4:1:0 (40)	LAN (28) ASN (27) 5:1:5 (45) 2:0:3 (49) 3:1:4 (44) + Zn 3:1:5 (45) 2:3:2 (30) 4:1:6 (45)	MAP (33) AM SULPHATE (21) POT CHLOR (50) 1:0:2 (49) 2:3:2 (22) + Zn 2:3:4 (30)	SUPERS (10,5) AM SUPERS (16)

