



Tomato Transplanting

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Tomatoes are an important crop for California. California ranks first in the nation in processing tomato production and produces 90% of the domestic supply. Tomato production is complex and doing it successfully is not easily achieved. Successful tomato production requires highly intensive management and a significant investment. Cost of production is high, and yields can be severely limited by pest problems or environment. Expertise in the areas of cultural practices, soils and fertility are needed. Given the complexity and risk growing tomatoes, it is extremely important to get off to a good start!

Ever since the 1990's the trend has moved from direct seeding to transplanting; the majority of tomato fields are now transplanted. Transplanting simplifies seedbed preparation and stand establishment, reduces weed competition, provides more options for weed control, and reduces hand-weeding expense. Transplants are mechanically planted into fields starting in early March and continuing until early June. Water, often containing N and P fertilizer, is applied at transplanting at rates of up to 400 gallons per acre. Phosphorus is commonly applied as a pre-plant, in the transplant water or immediately after transplanting. The early applications are critical to helping the plants with transplant shock, stimulating root development and early plant growth (get that great stand!).

More about Phosphorus

- Phosphorus plays a major role in the growth of new tissue and division of cells.
- Plants perform complex energy transmissions, a function that requires phosphorus
- Phosphorus is required for photosynthesis and in the storage and transportation of the nutrients throughout the plant.
- Phosphorus likes warm soil temperatures (poly-phosphates breakdown into ortho-phosphate form to be taken up by the plant).

Ask your Ultra Gro Crop Advisor about the type of Phosphate that fits your specific needs