

**Sample Paper 16****Score for Word Choice \_\_\_\_\_****Cultivating Tomatoes**

Fresh, homegrown tomatoes cannot be defeated for flavor. Perhaps that is the underlying reason why most home gardeners approach the enterprise of cultivating tomatoes with euphoria and zest. Relishing a bounteous harvest can be laden with hazards, however. A few simple things can facilitate you to grow the ultimate prestigious tomatoes within existence.

The first thing to accomplish is choosing a vivacious tomato plant. Prior to selecting, you should know if the tomato types are determinate—meaning they will grow to a specified height then cease growing, or indeterminate—meaning that they will flourish as high as you authorize. The transplant you choose should be healthy, with luxuriant green foliage, and a robust and mighty stem. Prior to submerging them in soil, you should warm the ground by engulfing the bed in dark plastic for several days.

When you implant the tomato, dig a deep, cavernous hole. Inject some mulch and water into this crevasse. Insert the deciduous plant into the hole. Be sure to thrust it deep into the ground, working partially up the length of your arm. Promulgate additional mulch to envelop the roots. Bury the plant up to its top leaves. Then amplify the mulch and water as required.

Be sure to situate the tomato in a sunny location. Tomatoes possess a strong preference for full sun. Apply some fertilizer, but exercise caution. If you apply too much, the tomato plant itself will burgeon, but will not stimulate production of tomatoes. Continue watering the tomato plant during the duration of growing. Failure to water regularly may result in the plant's demise. Once the fruit begins to ripen, deter the water a bit to help sweeten the fruit.

Now you are informed with the complete secrets of cultivating exemplary home-produced tomatoes.

### **Sources**

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<http://www.helpfulgardener.com/vegetable/2003/tomatoes.html>

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“Ten Mistakes to Avoid When Growing Tomatoes,” by Steve Reiners, Associate Professor of Horticulture Sciences, Cornell University, July 27, 2004. (<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/pubs/press/2004/040727tomato.html>)