
Tomatoes: The Gateway Fruit/Vegetable

OSHER 522-001**Dates:** Tuesdays, 4/1/14 - 5/6/14**Times:** 3:15 - 4:45 PM**Location:** Commander's House, Fort Douglas**Instructor:** Rochelle Kaplan**Course Overview**

We will review best cultivars for the Wasatch Front, how to grow tomatoes from seed, repot, transplant and nurture to harvest. Instructor will share catalogues and handouts of best writing and photography on tomatoes and/or gardening and favorite recipes. We will also share tomato growing stories, including war stories (addressing problems) and aim for solutions.

Course Materials:

(1) Plant growing materials: heating mats, starting trays with peat pots, seeds, small yogurt containers, pots and soil. Participants will need to set up home system with fluorescent lights above a table.

(2) Handouts with excerpts from The Heirloom Tomato, Tomatoland, The Gardener's Year, Cultivating Delight. Catalogues.

Class Schedule:

April 1: Cultivars- differences between determinate and indeterminate, colors, shapes, early/middle late. Begin planting seeds. Optional: keeping a journal.

April 8: Addressing common problems in growing tomatoes and best practices. What a tomato needs. How to transplant. Good tomato growing partners.

April 15: The history of the tomato. Why do store bought tomatoes lack taste?

April 22: Photographing tomatoes. Transplanting continued. Share tomato war stories.

April 29: Tomatoes in poetry and literature. Repotting, to pinch or not to pinch. Share tomato war stories.

May 6: When to pick tomatoes. Saving seeds. Recipes, how to dry tomatoes, to make tomato sauce. Share tomato growing war stories.

Optional: Visit to Rochelle's garden, getting together in late summer or early fall for a tomato tasting party.