

easy grow guide

Tomato Firecracker

(Lycopersicon esulentum)



Plug Production: 288 plugs or larger

Sowing/Media:	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 5.5-6.0, EC <1.0 mmhos.
Germination Stage 1: (4-7 days)	Media should be saturated and humidity needs to be high until radicle emergence. Temperature should be 60-72°F (16-22°C). Light is not necessary for germination so a very light covering of vermiculite or growing medium can aid humidity.
Germination Stage 2: (7-10 days)	Once radicles emerge, maintain media temperature at 65-72°F (18-22°C). Once cotyledons are fully open, allow the media to become moist, not saturated and maintain even moisture. Humidity can now be reduced. Keep light levels between 1000-2000 f.c. HID lights can be used to boost light levels during periods of low light.
Germination Stages 3&4:	Temperature can now be kept around 60-70°F (15-21°C) but reduced slightly during the night. Dry media down slightly between irrigations but avoid wilt. Increase light levels to around 2500 -3000 f.c, this will help stop stretching. Fertilize as required using balanced calcium fertiliser such as a 14-0-14 at 50-100ppm. Keep media pH at 5.5-6.0 and EC <1.0 mmhos.

Growing On to Finish: 8”(20cm), 10”(25cm) or 12”(30cm) pot/ hanging basket

Media:	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 5.5-6.2 and EC <1 mmhos.
Temperatures:	Day temperatures can be 60-70°F (16-21°C), night temperatures can be 50-60°F (10-16°C).
Light:	Light levels should be increased and maintained at 4000-5000 f.c.
Irrigation:	Once plants have established in the pot, practice a good wet/dry cycle to aid root development and control plant height. This will also benefit pest and disease pressures.
Fertiliser:	Feed every 2 nd or 3 rd watering with a balanced fertiliser such as 13-2-13 or 15-0-15 at a rate of 150-200ppm. Calcium is important. Add calcium to your fertiliser or use a calcium based product. If growing to first ripe fruit, increase fertigation to every watering.
Growth Regulators:	Good moisture and fertiliser management combined with the correct light levels and temperatures should limit the need for PGRs. This variety is naturally compact. DO NOT USE
Pests:	Whitefly, Aphid
Diseases:	Pythium

Plug Times:

288 plug:	14-21 days from sowing to transplant
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Transplant to Finish:

Container	Plants/Container	Transplant to green fruit (retail)	Total Crop Time
8” (20cm) Pot	1 x plug	6-8 weeks	10-12 weeks
12” (30cm) Pot	1 x plug	9-11 weeks	12-14 weeks

Crop times are based on optimum conditions. Alternative environmental conditions and cultural regimes can lengthen the crop times stated above.