

Fast Facts: Tomatoes

Acres planted

- Average 42,350 acres per season (average from the past 10 years)
- Approximately 38,200 acres for the 2006-07 season

Growing season

- Planted mid-July through mid-March
- Harvesting begins mid-October through mid-November
- Most active mid-November through May
- Ends in June

Value of annual crop

- 2006-07 season: \$464,241,000



Harvest method

- All Florida's tomatoes are hand-picked except for a few experimental plots

Number of pickings

- Depending on the area, tomatoes are harvested two to three times a year
 - The Ruskin-Palmetto production region has two production periods: 40% in the fall and 60% in the spring
 - The South Florida production region has three production periods: 40% in the fall, 25% in the winter and 35% in the spring
 - The Dade County production area harvests the majority of the crop in the winter and limited production occurs in the late fall

Common pests and diseases

- Aphids
- Blister beetles
- Tomato hornworm
- Stink bugs
- Tomato fruitworms

Sources:

2008 Florida Agriculture Statistical Directory

Florida Tomato Facts, Florida Tomato Committee

<http://www.floridatomatoes.org/>