

## Tips for Success

**Water:** Water your plants immediately after taking them out of the box. Give them enough water so that the soil appears damp and water trickles out the bottom of the pot.

**Plants look Dry or Foliage appears Lackluster:** Sometimes plants may appear dried out and wilted after the voyage. Do not despair. When this happens the foliage may look lackluster but the rootstock is still perfectly healthy and alive. To plump your plants back up, water them and wait 5 minutes and then water them again. This will generally rehydrate them. Keep these plants well-watered until you can re-plant them into larger containers or in the garden within the next week. If plants arrive dry, it is often because the roots have outgrown the small shipping pots and need more room to grow; roots tend to dry out quickly in small containers. Your plants are very much alive and when you transplant them into larger pots or the earth, they will start growing quickly! So, re-plant them as soon as possible. Remove any yellow or brown foliage.

**Time to Plant!** Your plants are now ready to be replanted. Follow the planting guide inside for detailed instructions on how to most effectively plant your new plants.

**Early Girl Plus Tomatoes:** There's only one thing better than eating fresh, homegrown tomatoes. And that is eating them earlier in the season than everyone else! The brand new Early Girl Plus will be ready for its first picking within about 40 days after planting. And the fruits are large baseball sized that are deliciously sweet and flavorful. You'll want to be prepared with lots of ideas on how to enjoy the tomatoes because they'll grow so fast and there'll be so many!

**When to Expect Fruit:** Under normal conditions, you can expect them to reach fruiting within about 65-80 days. If you pick your tomatoes a little too early, you can help ripen them up by storing them in a paper bag with the top rolled closed. Check on them daily to see when they are ready.



# Girl Next Door by Carolyn

## PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



**Early Girl Plus Tomatoes**  
*Solanum lycopersicum*

### Girl Next Door By Carolyn is fulfilled by Roberta's Inc.

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at **1-765-525-4065** during the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST.

You can email questions to us at: [customerservice@robertasinc.com](mailto:customerservice@robertasinc.com).

If your bulbs, cuttings, etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within 90 days from the date of shipment, we will send you a replacement free of charge. We cannot accept responsibility for losses due to extreme weather or neglect. Simply call us at the above toll free number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at [RobertasUniqueGardens.com](http://RobertasUniqueGardens.com).

Roberta's will replace it with a similar or comparable plant at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following year.

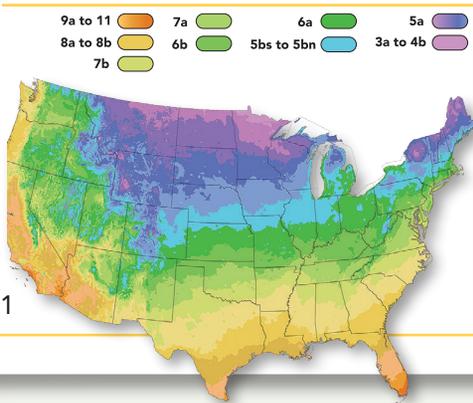


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*Annual and Tropical Plants*

## Quick Reference

-  **Plant Type:** Annual
-  **Light/Sun:** Full Sun
-  **Mature Height:** 6-7'
-  **Mature Spread:** 2-4'
-  **Bloom Time:** End of Summer
-  **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 9 to 11



## Plant Caretaking

**Upon Arrival:** Please take plants out of the box immediately and remove any shipping materials from around the plants. Give them some water and place them in a warm sunny area for 1-2 days before replanting.

**Planting Depth & Spacing:** Dig a deep enough hole so that the entire plant easily fits into the hole and the top of the soil line of your plant is flush with the top of the soil in the hole you have dug. It is important that the soil line of your plant does not protrude above the soil line in the ground or container. You may plant these tomatoes so that an inch of the stem that was originally above the soil line in the shipped plants is now below the soil. This will create stronger stems. Space plants about 5' apart.

**Potted Plants:** Make sure your container has holes to allow excess water to drain. Repot each plant into a 24" container. Do not plant multiple together in a single container.

**Soil Preparation:** If your soil is clayish, amend it with standard potting mix to improve drainage. They like bagged potting mixes that will drain well. Most garden centers carry various brand names with perlite, vermiculite, soil and sand.

**Watering:** All tomatoes produce much better with deep watering as opposed to shallow watering. Water these generously when the top 1-2 inches of soil is dry. If allowed to go too dry they may suffer wilt.

**Fertilizer:** Use a well balanced fertilizer throughout the summer.

**Pet Considerations:** Some plants are toxic to pets. Do your diligence to protect your pet.

**Cages, Trellises & Support:** After these reach 12-16 inches tall they will need some means of support. A large cage is recommended.

**Winter Season:** These are annuals that will only last one season. However, if some of your tomatoes have been allowed to fall away, they will often re-seed themselves the following year. This happens more often in warm winter areas.

## Planting Steps

**Step 1** Remove plants from their box and take off other packing materials. Open your box outside or somewhere you don't mind getting messy, as some of the soil may have been shaken loose in transit.

**Step 2** Check if your plant is thirsty. They probably need a nice drink of water after their voyage. If the plant feels light or the soil is dry to the touch, give your plants a watering.

**Step 3** Allow your plants time to adjust to their new home before re-planting by placing them in a warm sunny spot for 1-2 days. Then they will be ready for re-planting with renewed vigor.

**Step 4** Pull away or cut off any yellow or brown leaves, or any old flowers – this is normal.

**Step 5** Transplant into the garden or containers as soon as evening temperatures stay above 40F. Dig holes the width of the root ball and deep enough so that the original top of the soil is flush with the new soil line. Water the new location before and after planting your plant. This will help the young roots stay hydrated. Once you've placed your plant in the hole, fill in the rest of the hole with extra soil or potting mix, ensuring the entire root system is covered with soil.

