

# NEWSLETTER Summer { 2024

Cover photograph: Eastern Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa virginica*) on Purple Passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*). Photograph by Jeanette Navia.

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Colonial World Nature Conservation Day BioBlitz

10:00 am - 12:00 noon 1000 Lakeshead Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Click here for more



### **Bugfest**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm Grafton Middle School 405 Grafton Drive Yorktown, VA 23692

#### Click here for more

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The Colonial Photography Contest is officially open for entries and will close on August 31, 2024, at 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

Click here to enter!

### **Amy Walker**

Hello all! I am a new addition to the District as of April 2024, filling the new Operations Manager Position. While new to the District as staff, I have worked with Colonial SWCD since the early 2000s. I came to the District from the Department of Conservation and Recreation -Division of Soil and Water where I was the Eastern Area Manager managing three regional offices and assisting with the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program, Nutrient Management Program, and the Shoreline Erosion Advisory Service. I was heavily involved in the Cost Share Program, updating standards and specifications and creating new practices, including the creation and implementation of the Whole Farm Approach. I am excited to join the team of my home District and look forward to assisting with the innovative programs and initiatives the District is working on. I am a past graduate of Virginia Tech (Forestry) and enjoy working with the agricultural community. In my free time I enjoy working outdoors, particularly in my flower beds.

## Colonial World Nature Y Conservation Day BioBlitz

### **Amanda Whispell**

On July 20, 2024 we will be holding a BioBlitz at New Quarter Park in Williamsburg between 8:00 am and noon. This will be the first annual Colonial World Nature Conservation Day BioBlitz and we're really excited about how many organizations will be participating and helping educate the public about the importance of biodiversity. Please visit the <u>EventBrite page</u> for the event to reserve (FREE!) tickets and sign up for the <u>iNaturalist project</u>.



## **Colonial Pollinator Pledge**

Do you love pollinators and want to do something to make a difference? Then try taking our Colonial Pollinator Pledge. The pledge only asks that you try your best to make five small changes to benefit pollinators. Please check out the <u>Colonial Pollinator Pledge page on our website</u> and learn more about Virginia pollinators.





### **Robyn Woolsey**

It is with great sadness that we share the news of Bob Winters' passing. Among many other accolades, Bob served as the district's Turf Love Program Technician for the last five years and was widely known as Williamsburg's top turfgrass expert.

For those of us that were lucky enough to know Bob, we can all agree that he was a kind, intelligent, and hard working friend and coworker. After growing up in Long Island, Bob founded the Turf Love program upon his arrival in Williamsburg more than 20 years ago in his role with Virginia Cooperative Extension. Over



Robyn Woolsey Urban Conservationist



Bob with a soil core sample.

the years, Bob shared his passion for soil health and turfgrass management with homeowners across Williamsburg and helped to train dozens of Master Gardener classes to do the same. I consider myself extremely lucky to be one of his students as well, and will continue to share his enthusiasm and wisdom with others who didn't get to meet him.

Bob and his lovely wife Jean quickly embraced me and my newfound Williamsburg family, and I will treasure each opportunity I had to sit down and enjoy conversations with them both. Jean is one of the kindest, most selfless people I have ever gotten to meet, and I will remain grateful for our friendship.



Bob measuring a lawn for a Turf Love client.



Bob and a Turf Love client.

## **Beneficial Bugs - Hoverflies**

## **Amanda Whispell**

Hoverflies are amazing little insects and they do so much good, which is why they are the beneficial insect I will be talking about in this Beneficial Bugs article.

Hoverflies, a.k.a. Flower flies and syrphids (their scientific family name is Syrphidae) are—as you might have guessed—flies that are often seen hovering around flowers. There are roughly 6000 species found all over the globe, so it is no surprise that there is much variation in their appearance and their behavior. Like all other flies (well, those with wings anyway) hoverflies have two wings, one on either side of their body, and can be easily distinguished from other fly families by looking at wing venation — if you are into that sort of thing.

Many hoverflies are wasp and bee mimics, being brightly colored with stripes, and spots, and alternating bands of yellow and black or brown that cover their bodies. I can almost guarantee that you have run away from an insect you thought was an angry wasp when it was really a harmless hoverfly — me included. They

"The larvae feed on a variety of foods, ... some ... are predatory insectivores that feast on plant-sucking insects, such as aphids and thrips."



Hoverfly larva eating an aphid.

Hairy-eye Bee-mimic Fly (Mallota posticata)

## Amanda Whispell Education & Outreach Specialist

have evolved to look the way they do for this very reason; predators don't want to get stung either. Many predators learn not to catch yellow and black stripy things, thus flies that are black and yellow would be avoided.. As the flies are harmless to humans and other predators, this Is known as Batesian mimicry — mimicry that's meant to make them look like they are dangerous, even though they are not.

Most have a standard life cycle for a fly – egg, larva, pupa, adult. Most eggs are laid on land but some (those of the rat-tailed maggots, for example) are laid in the water. The larvae feed on a variety of foods, with some preferring to scavenge for decaying animal and/or plant material, while others are predatory insectivores that feast on plant-sucking insects, such as aphids and thrips. This is one of the ways in which these flies can be very beneficial – they provide amazing biological control in your gardens.

The adults have a very different diet and are, in fact, some of the world's most important pollinators — they are thought to be second only to native bees. Many hoverflies are generalists and will visit a broad range of flowers, including agricultural crops, while some appear to be



specialists and visit only a very narrow range of plants. There are several companion plants that you can include in your own garden if you want to increase the number of hoverfly visitors you get: chamomile, yarrow, buckwheat, parsley, statice, and Alyssum species.

Overall, hoverflies prove to be beneficial insects in both their larval stage and their adult

stage by performing pest control for us in our gardens as larvae before growing their wings and moving on to help pollinate your flowers. So, try to take a moment to observe the yellow and black stripy insects you see in your garden, it's likely you have many hoverflies from multiple different species helping to pollinate your flowers all summer long.

## **Spring Outreach**

### **Amanda Whispell**

I had the opportunity to participate in two wonderful outreach activities since our last newsletter.

I had a great time teaching some students all about pollinators and pollinator conservation at the Williamsburg Montessori School. I was able to try my new pollinator simulation and found that it worked well with the children and that they enjoyed the activity. I will definitely be taking this into other schools in the future. I'm happy to share this with others — either a tutorial on how to create the simulator or I could come into your class if you live in the Colonial District.

My second spring event was Party for the Planet in Hampton. The event was held to commemorate Earth Day and there was a wonderful turnout, with lots of people who were interested in learning more about the environment. We had a great new activity for visitors to our booth. People were able to paint designs onto biodegradable plant pots and then plant their seeds of choice, for a decorative seed sprouter that could then be planted directly in their garden. The table was busy for the entire event, with never a paint space unattended.

I'm looking forward to upcoming events and hope that I'll see some of your faces this summer.

**Top right:** Pollinator simulator being used. **Bottom right:** Close up of "bees" kids use in the simulator. **Bottom left:** One of the painted biodegradable pots.







## **More Spring Outreach**

## **Emma Rich**

Colonial staff have been busy as bees this spring attending a myriad of outreach events. On April 13th, Robyn Woolsey and I attended Yorktown's Go Green Market. The Go Green Market brought the community together for a day dedicated to sustainable living with support from partners like the Hampton Roads Go Green Trailer, Poquoson and York County Master Gardeners, Colonial Beekeepers, and the York County Library. We spoke with members of the community about all the services offered by the Colonial SWCD and distributed resources on protecting the environment at home.

On the 4th of May, Robyn and I also attended the Williamsburg Community Grower's Farm Day. Despite the dreary weather, the event had a wonderful turnout, as people enjoyed the educational crafts we provided. We invited kids (and adults!) to paint biodegradable pots and fill them with native pollinator seeds like Coreopsis, Black-eyed Susan, and Partridge Pea. This was



Emma Rich (left) and Robyn Woolsey (right)



a great way for us to meet with constituents face-to-face and continue to spread word about District services.

On May 16th, Robyn and I presented to the John Clayton chapter of the Native Plant Society about the importance of native plants and their role in stormwater mitigation. We engaged in exciting conversation with native plant enthusiasts about all of the benefits of these species and found new contacts for future projects.

Most recently, I was able to attend a Native Habitat Garden Grand Celebration at Ford's Colony (a residential community in Williamsburg) that commemorated the initiation of a conservation landscaping project that was partially funded by the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program. Community members got to see a beautiful example of what a native-planted bed can look like. The Ford's Colony Green Team, a residentled green initiative group, is working to promote sustainable practices within their community and Colonial staff are thrilled to have been a part of their efforts.



## **Jamestown High School Wins Statewide Envirothon**

### Sheila Jaruseski

## Dominion Energy Envirothon inspires students to develop environmental skills and solutions

The Enviothon® is a multi-level environmental and natural resource education program and competition that encourages students to think critically and creatively about the natural world and their place in it. The Envirothon consists of in-class curriculum learning with hands-on outdoor field experiences where students can learn natural resource management techniques from natural resource professionals.

Each year, over 25,000 high school students across the United States, Canada, China, and Singapore spend months studying, researching, and learning about conservation, natural resources, environmental issues, and more to prepare for an educational competition like no other! All with the goal of attending the National Conservation Foundation (NCF)-Envirothon annual international competition.

Virginia's 2024 Dominion Energy Envirothon State Competition was held at Radford University on May 19–20, 2024. Jamestown High School placed first overall, earning them the title of State Champions, after competing against teams representing 18 different high schools throughout Virginia. They placed first in Aquatics, Wildlife, Soils, and Forestry, and third in the Oral Presentation category.

The Jamestown High School Envirothon team, supported by the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District, is returning to the International competition. In the 2023 International Envirothon Competition the team placed 13 overall and they were named the champions of the 2019 NCF-Envirothon, for which they were awarded scholarships and prizes, with the top three scoring teams receiving \$30,000 in total, thanks to the support of Smithfield Foods, Inc.

The Jamestown team will travel to Geneva, New York July 28 through August 3, 2024 to proudly represent Virginia State, as they compete at this year's NCF's International Envirothon. Students participate in this academic competition to test their knowledge and skills for scholarships, prizes, and accolades.

The issue for the 2024 Dominion Energy Envirothon was "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future" and teams presented solutions to address a renewable energy scenario for the Hampton Roads region of Virginia.

"Protecting the environment and supporting local communities are key components of our mission," said Hunter A. Applewhite, president of the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation. "Envirothon proudly promotes both as these students will become future leaders of environmental sustainability."

The Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District proudly supports the Envirothon Education program to further our mission of conservation education and sustainability.

To learn more visit <u>www.colonialswcd.org/</u> <u>envirothon</u>, or contact Sheila Jaruseski, Office Coordinator, at <u>Sheila.Jaruseski@colonialswcd</u>. org, our office phone (757) 645-4895.



## **Department of Forestry Grants**

### **Daniel Ronald Brooks**

They say the best time to plant a tree was yesterday, and that the second-best time to plant a tree is today. With summer on the way, today might not be a great time to physically plant a tree, but it is a great time to plan a future planting! With that in mind, the <u>Virginia Depart-</u> <u>ment of Forestry</u> offers two grant programs that may assist one in their dreams to grow an urban forest.

Those grants are <u>Virginia Trees</u> for Clean Water, or VTCW, and the newly-developed <u>Riparian Forests For</u> <u>Landowners</u>, or RFFL. I'll give a brief overview of these two grants, but feel free to contact me if you'd like to learn more. Now, let's grow!

Virginia Trees for Clean Water aims to help establish long-term urban canopies in order to improve water quality. This aim can be achieved through reforestation, afforestation, expansion of an existing canopy, tree give aways, planting riparian buffers, and otherwise planting trees in publicly accessible spaces. The grant covers projects between \$1000 - \$50000, and does include an expectation of cost-match, though that cost-match can be met in ways that aren't just monetary. This is a great grant for communities, places of faith, local municipalities, public educational institutions, volunteer organizations, tribal organizations, nonprofits, civic groups, or any other sort of group that deals with helping improve publicly accessible land to look into. The beauty of a long-term urban canopy is in how it benefits the community as a whole, so whoever is heading the project needs to establish community engagement through outreach. There are some particulars about what is covered, and



## Daniel Ronald Brooks Community Forestry Specialist Capital District

what isn't covered, by the funding this grant provides. In short, the grant will help fund the costs associated with sourcing, planting, and maintaining a wide-variety of woody perennial plants. Other things, including but not limited to planting invasive species, planting herbaceous plants, snacks, tree removals, or equipment, aren't within the scope of this grant's funding. Applications for this grant are accepted yearround, although we do want at least 30 days before the proposed start date of the project in order to process the application.

Our other grant that may be of interest to folks in the District is Riparian Forests For Landowners. There have been some amazing success stories of programs that

aim to establish riparian buffers on oftentimes large areas of land, but there haven't been too many opportunities for smaller areas to receive grant funding. The Department hopes to change that with RFFL, which is a flexible riparian



establishment program that comes with one year of maintenance, all at no cost to the landowner. This grant is open to private property owners of all stripes, including individuals, civic leagues, and homeowner associations. The buffer must be at least 35 feet wide from the edge of a water feature, and can extend out to a maximum width of 300 feet. Water features that are eligible include, but are not limited to, streams, rivers, lakes/ponds/municipal water supplies, wetlands, fresh and saltwater marshes, irrigation ditches, canals, and other natural or man made water features. The buffer can be pine, hardwood, or a mixture of both, and the landowner must agree to maintain the buffer as a forest for at least 15 vears. There can't be more than 20% coverage by invasive species in the intended buffer area, as those invasive species would likely outcompete the buffer plants during their establishment period. This grant is funded by the Inflation

Reduction Act, and we're accepting applications until we run out of funds. We're hoping to start work on projects by Fall of 2024, so now is the perfect time to reach out for more information!

If you'd like to learn more about these grant opportunities, either check our website at <u>dof.</u> <u>virginia.gov</u>, reach out to me at either <u>daniel.</u> <u>brooks@dof.virginia.gov</u> or (804)887-9223, or catch me in person at the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District's monthly meetings. I'll be happy to be of service! Trees are the answer to how we can start making a better future for ourselves and our loved ones, and the Virginia Department of Forestry is just one of many groups trying to help create that future. Hopefully the funding from these grants can assist you in making your dreams for a strong urban canopy come true! I hope you have great days, and thank you for all that you do.



## Should I water the grass?

### **Jim Wallace**

Many homeowners have irrigation systems to water their lawns. Irrigating lawns can help maintain a healthy sod during the heat of the summer, but when to water the grass and how much to water the grass are questions that deserve deeper investigation.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates the average American family uses about 320 gallons of water per day, of which, about 30% is used outdoors, including irrigating lawns and gardens. Given a ballpark US population of 333 million folks, and an average family unit size of 3.13 people, that's a little over 106 million families, meaning our lawn and garden irrigation usage across the country equals about 10 billion gallons of water per day (repeating for emphasis, to water the lawn and garden). Can these estimates be true? Is it really possible we use the equivalent of 15,150 olympic sized swimming pools of water everyday (on average) to keep our grass green?

I offer facts to make a case. I lived in a New Kent County subdivision for several years and kept track of my water usage from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2008. During that time, my family's annual domestic (inside) water consumption averaged 48,400 gallons. Over the same period, our irrigation usage more than doubled, at 100,500 gallons per year. New Kent County Director of Public Utilities says, "one thing people don't understand is we have to build pumps, tanks, wells, etc., to meet the peak demand, not the average demand, and thus much of that infrastructure is oversized most of the year.", noting that county-wide peak demand in the summer is approximately 100% more than the winter demand, due mostly to irrigation usage.

So, is it really necessary to water the lawn in eastern Virginia? For certain, it does get hot here in the summer, however, traditionally, most of our rainfall comes in June, July, August, and September. Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication 430-010, <u>Summer Lawn Management:</u>



Jim Wallace District Manager

"Our lawn and garden irrigation usage across the country equals about 10 billion gallons of water per day..."

<u>Watering the Lawn</u>, notes that most turfgrasses require approximately one inch of water per week (rain or irrigation) to sustain growth during warmer conditions, although specific site conditions such as type of grass, soil conditions, etc., may dictate adjustments. Lower amounts of water, especially during very hot periods, may cause turf to go dormant. Dormant lawns will lose

their deep green color and may turn pale or even brown. A dormant lawn will recover when water is applied again. If conditions are extreme, the lawn may die and require replanting when the time is right.

Overwatering brings





its own set of pitfalls. Too much water can lead to excessive vegetative growth, requiring more frequent mowing, and can lead to outbreaks of fungal diseases such as brown patch and gray leaf spot. If you choose to irrigate your lawn, set your system to run around dawn, water deeply and infrequently, and adjust your sprinkler heads to avoid irrigating the driveway, sidewalk, and street.

Remember the purpose of your lawn is to stabilize the soil around your home to prevent erosion... croquet with the Queen is an unrealistic goal. 1. "Outdoor Water Use in the United States." United States Environmental Protection Agency, <u>https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/www3/</u> <u>watersense/pubs/outdoor.html</u>. Accessed 29 April 2024

"Summer Lawn Management: Watering the Lawn" Publication 430-010, Virginia Cooperative Extension, <u>https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/</u> <u>content/dam/pubs\_ext\_vt\_edu/430/430-</u> <u>010/430-010.pdf</u>. Accessed 29 April 2024

- 2. McCall, David. "Lawn Diseases" in Homes, Lawns, and Animals, 2024 Pest Management Guide, Publication 456-018, Virginia Cooperative Extension.
- 3. <u>https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/server/api/</u> <u>core/bitstreams/e0666e93-8cae-481f-b8f2-</u> <u>64eb588b6370/content</u> Accessed 29 April 2024

## Whole Farm Approach

## Samantha Pereira

Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District is excited to announce our participation in a program that provides a comprehensive approach to conservation planning for farms in our district — the Whole Farm Approach (WFA) through the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Whether you have livestock, crops, nursery, or mixed operation, find out if the Whole Farm Approach is right for your agricultural enterprise.

The Whole Farm Approach is a voluntary conservation planning process that looks at the entire farm landscape as an interconnected system. Rather than addressing just one resource concern at a time, Whole Farm Approach considers the big picture. WFA was created to bundle all the practices a producer would implement even if they were not funded through VACS (Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share) due to low ranking, lack of funding, or not prioritized through secondary considerations. The Whole Farm Approach increases data provided to the Bay Model towards Agricultural nutrient reductions, showing the efforts of agricultural producers.

The Whole Farm Approach may include best management practices such as:

- Nutrient Management (WFA NM)
- Precision Application of Nutrients
- Cover Crops (WFA CC)

To be enrolled in the WFA for cover crops, a producer MUST also be signed up for the WFA for nutrient management; if there are acres not covered under the WFA-NM they would not be eligible for WFA-CC. WFA sign up is by tract as a minimum unit, fields cannot be split. For example, a producer could stack payments for having a



nutrient management plan, implementing cover crops, in-furrow or banded phosphorus, side dressing nitrogen on corn, late kill down, incentives for mixed species, etc.

Get Started Today! Our district has an agriculture team of four on staff who are ready to work with farm owners and operators in developing comprehensive conservation plans. Give us a call at the district office to learn more! (757) 645-4895

## A farmer's perspective on radish cover crop

## **Robert Waring**

Tillage radish, also known as daikon radish, is a cover crop commonly used in agriculture for its ability to break up compacted soil as well as improve soil quality. The radish cover crop plays a crucial role in managing worm populations in the soil, as the deep taproots of tillage radish create channels that allow the worms to move more freely and access deeper layers of the soil profile. The decaying radish residues provide a rich source of organic matter, which serves as food for worms and other soil organisms. As worms feed on these residues and break them down further. they release essential nutrients into the soil and improve soil structure through their burrowing activities. The presence of worms in cover crop fields is a positive indicator of a healthy soil ecosystem, promoting better soil aeration, water infiltration, and nutrient cycling. Earthworms lay





**Robert Waring** Senior Agricultural Conservation Specialist



"The presence of worms in cover crop fields is a positive indicator of a healthy soil ecosystem, promoting better soil aeration, water infiltration, and nutrient cycling."



their eggs in the soil where tillage radish are grown, mainly because of their attraction to the loose, aerated soil conditions created by the deep taproots of tillage radish. The decaying residues of tillage radish provide food for earthworms and this abundant food supply encourages earthworm reproduction and egg-laying. The improved soil conditions and food availability in tillage radish fields can lead to an increase in the earthworm population, resulting in more cocoons being laid. Earthworm cocoons are small, lemonshaped cases that contain several eggs. As the cocoons hatch, the juvenile earthworms further contribute to the soil's health and fertility, creating a beneficial cycle for both the tillage radish crop and the soil ecosystem.

Interestingly, while walking my cover crop fields this year, I noticed the above ground radish carcasses were hollow, while the below ground biomass was intact and solid. As I began to look further, I noticed baby worms burrowing into what was left of the radish. I can only suspect that the adult worms laid their eggs inside of the radish and when the babies hatched they began their life inside of this radish nursery. As they hatched, they had everything they needed to survive: a home, warmth, protection from the elements, and plenty of food! At this point, not only am I a corn and soybean farmer, but have become a worm farmer as well, in my quest to have the healthiest and most productive soils possible. Radish will be an integral part of my cover crop mix from this point forward!



## Understanding the Differences Between Determinate and Indeterminate Tomatoes

## Logan Ellis

Tomatoes are a staple in many gardens and kitchens, prized for their versatility and flavor. However, when choosing which type of tomato to grow, gardeners must decide between determinate and indeterminate varieties. Each type has distinct characteristics that influence their growth habits, fruit production, and care requirements. Understanding these differences can help gardeners make informed decisions that align with their gardening goals and preferences.

### **Growth Habits**

#### **Determinate Tomatoes**

Determinate tomatoes, also known as "bush" tomatoes, have a more compact growth habit. These plants grow to a certain height, usually between 3 to 4 feet, and then stop. The growth of determinate tomatoes is regulated by their genetic makeup, which results in





### Determinate

Indeterminate



## Logan Ellis Conservation Specialist

a bushy, self-contained plant. Because of their manageable size, determinate tomatoes are wellsuited for container gardening and small spaces.

#### **Indeterminate Tomatoes**

In contrast, indeterminate tomatoes, or "vining" tomatoes, continue to grow and produce fruit throughout the growing season until killed by frost. These plants can reach heights of 6 to 10 feet or more, requiring sturdy supports such as stakes, cages, or trellises to keep them upright. Indeterminate tomatoes are ideal for gardeners with ample space and those who can provide the necessary support structures.

"By understanding the growth habits, fruit production patterns, and care requirements... gardeners can make informed decisions that best suit their needs and enjoy a bountiful tomato harvest."



#### **Determinate Tomatoes**

One of the defining features of determinate tomatoes is their concentrated fruit production. These plants tend to set and ripen all their fruit within a relatively short period, typically over a few weeks. This trait makes determinate tomatoes a popular choice for canning and preserving, as gardeners can harvest a large quantity of tomatoes at once.

#### **Indeterminate Tomatoes**

Indeterminate tomatoes produce fruit continuously throughout the growing season. After the initial set of fruit, these plants will keep flowering and setting new fruit, providing a steady supply of tomatoes until frost. This extended harvest period is advantageous for those who enjoy fresh tomatoes regularly and prefer to pick them gradually over the summer and fall.

#### **Care and Maintenance**

#### **Determinate Tomatoes**

Because of their limited growth, determinate tomatoes generally require less maintenance than indeterminate varieties. They do not need extensive pruning, and their compact size means they often don't require heavy-duty support structures. However, it's still important to stake or cage these plants to keep them off the ground and to support the weight of the fruit.

#### **Indeterminate Tomatoes**

Indeterminate tomatoes demand more attention and care. Regular pruning is necessary to manage their vigorous growth and to direct the plant's energy toward fruit production rather than excessive foliage. This involves removing the suckers that grow in the leaf axles (see right). Additionally, providing robust support systems is crucial to keep the long vines upright and to prevent the fruit from lying on the ground, where it can rot or be eaten by pests.

#### Choosing the Right Type for Your Garden

Selecting between determinate and indeterminate tomatoes depends on your gardening goals, available space, and the intended use of the tomatoes. If you have limited space or prefer a large, single harvest for canning, determinate tomatoes may be the better choice. On the other hand, if you enjoy having fresh tomatoes throughout the growing season and can provide the necessary care and support, indeterminate tomatoes are an excellent option.

By understanding the growth habits, fruit production patterns, and care requirements of determinate and indeterminate tomatoes, gardeners can make informed decisions that best suit their needs and enjoy a bountiful tomato harvest.

