New Jersey is famous for its tomatoes because of their flavor, tenderness, and juiciness. Tomatoes are in season in New Jersey during the summer months, from June through September. The New Jersey Pine Barrens has ideal growing conditions for growing tomatoes with its sandy and acidic soil. Tomatoes are delicate plants that do not like the cold. Be sure to plant yours after any danger of frost which in NJ or Zone 7 is using around Mother’s Day or May 15.

**ACTIVITIES:**

Pre-K:
- pint size PRODUCE - Tomatoes!

K-4:
- Harvest Lessons - Tomatoes
- Book Read: *I Will Not Ever Never Eat a Tomato*

Middle School:
- Increasing Food Production with Precision Agriculture

High School:
- Tomato Temperature Lab
- Article - "The political adventures of New Jersey's 'highly partisan' tomato"

**FUN FACTS:**

- The tomato is the official state vegetable of New Jersey. In Arkansas the tomato is the official state fruit and state vegetable.

**HOW DOES IT GROW:**

How is it Grown: Tomato Video

**NUTRITION FACT:**

Tomatoes are rich in lycopene, an antioxidant that is good for the heart.

**RECIPES:**

Breakfast:
- Shakshuka - Eggs Poached in Tomato Sauce
  - Jersey Tastes! Cooking Series: Shakshuka

Lunch/Dinner:
- Fruity Tomato Salad
  - Jersey Tastes! Cooking Series: Fruity Tomato Salad
- Jersey Fresh Zucchini & Tomato Panzanella Salad
  - Jersey Fresh Zucchini Panzanella with Chef Amanda Freitag

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