

How many days till ...



I'm so excited about that spring is coming. This has been such a snowy, cold year here in Boston. I can't wait to plant my garden. I'm looking at my tomato seeds and I have to figure out when to start my little plants. It's late March now. Am I already too late to start my tomato seeds indoors?

This packet contains Beefsteak Tomato Seeds. These seeds will produce large, meaty tomatoes in 90 - 100 days after planting.

Planting Depth	Seed Spacing	Days to Germination	Days to Maturity
1/4 in or 6 mm	2" or 5 cm	8 - 14 days	75 - 80*

*From setting transplants into garden.

When and where to plant: For an early crop, start seeds indoors in pots or flats 5-7 weeks before planting outdoors. Transplant to a sunny, well-drained location once all danger of frost is past and the soil has warmed. Prepare bed by loosening soil, mixing in some compost, and raking smooth.

1. Think of some ways that I could count back to when I should start my seeds from the information given on the seed packet above. Write your suggestions here.

I think creating a spreadsheet in Excel might help me. There is a formula in Excel that uses dates and actually counts the number of days in between two dates

2. What information do you think I need to figure out when my seed planting and transplanting dates should be?

In my Excel (Excel 2011 for Mac) this is the formula I would use when I want to know how many days are between two dates. I can type "`=DAYS360(__, __)`" and use the cell names for which dates I wish to count between and Excel will do all of the work. Whenever you begin a cell's contents with "=" Excel understands that you will enter a formula for it to calculate. For instance;

	A	B	C
1	Birthdate	Today	Days I've been alive
2	12-Sep-70	27-Mar-15	=DAYS360(A2,B2)

3. Which information from the Tomato packet description do you think that I should use to calculate when to plant my seeds?

4. Fill in my sample spreadsheet to show your thoughts.

5. On your device, create a spreadsheet that contains your region's frost-free date and the number of growing days required for your favorite vegetable or flower. When should you plant your seeds?

6. Decide on one or more search that you'd like to do. For instance;
 - a. How many days until the band performance?
 - b. How many days until your graduation from high school?
 - c. How many days old are you?

There are other functions in Excel about time that has elapsed. Suppose you just wanted to know how many actual school days are left in this school year. You could use the networkdays function. Here's an example: If today is April 1, 2015 and the last day of school will be June 26, 2015 and you want to know how many school days are in between you might set your spreadsheet up like this:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<i>Present date</i>	<i>End of school year</i>	<i>School days until the end of the year</i>		<i>Holidays</i>
2	1-Apr-15	26-Jun-15	=NETWORKDAYS(A2,B2,E2)		30-May-15

7. Create one last calculation of time until something happens in your life and explain it here.

8. Save and print out your Excel sheet and include it in this homework assignment.