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an electric vibrator or battery-operated toothbrush. Midday is the best time for such attention because it's warm and the humidity is low.

Will sprinkling in hot weather cause leaf burn?

No. If anything, the plants will be cooled. The notion that drops of water on leaves act as a prism to magnify the heat is a myth.

Will pruning tomatoes help good yield?

On the contrary, tomato yields per plant may be lowered by pruning. Removing leaves or shoots does not conserve "food" for the crop, it tends to reduce the total food supply. Some pruning is necessary with certain methods that require little pruning.

Will crowding tomato plants reduce fruit size?

Not enough to be perceptible. Crowding of this group of vegetables usually reduces the yield per plant rather than the size of the fruit.

Tomato yields per plant may be lowered by pruning. Removing leaves or shoots tends to reduce the total food supply.

Is direct sunlight necessary for ripening tomatoes?

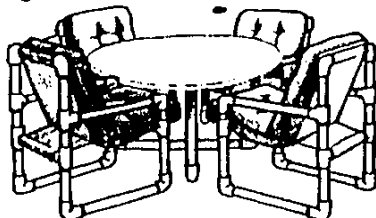
No. Tomatoes will turn color and ripen in shade or in the dark at proper temperatures. In fact, red or pink tomatoes will turn yellow on the exposed side if they receive too much sun, so some foliage cover is beneficial.

Should I save seed?

Save seed from some of the fruits if you want to perpetuate a standard brand of tomatoes that has done well in your garden. Hybrids are a different story. Their seed is genetically stable for only one season. You'll get a duplicate the first year but after that the seed is unstable and anything can happen.

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