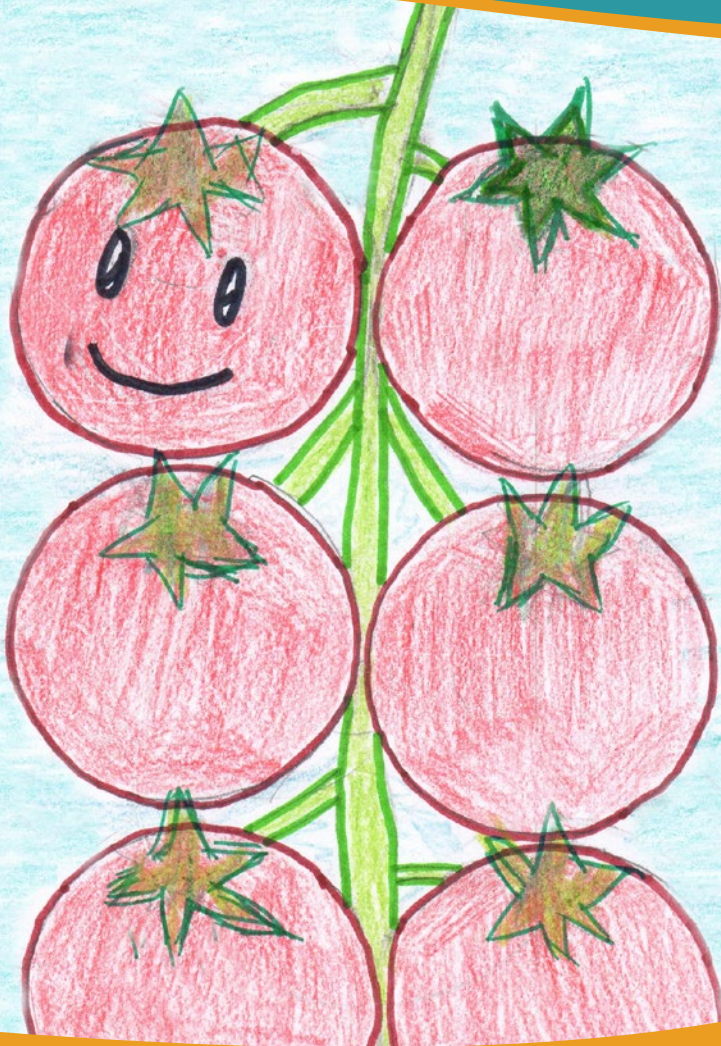


# Guyra Tomatoes



Lara Sunderland  
Narrabri Public School



## Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

[www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)

## Cotton Research and Development Corporation

Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) is a partnership between the Australian Government and the Australian cotton industry. CRDC invests in and manages a portfolio of research, development and extension projects that seek to enhance the environmental, social and economic values associated with cotton production systems for the benefit of cotton industry participants, regional communities and the Australian people.

[www.crdc.com.au](http://www.crdc.com.au)

# Guyra Tomatoes

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School: Narrabri Public School

This book has been published as part of the 2018 From the Farm to You Enviro-Stories program. Students used their imagination to write and illustrate stories that highlight the importance of where our food and fibre comes from. This program was supported by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation.

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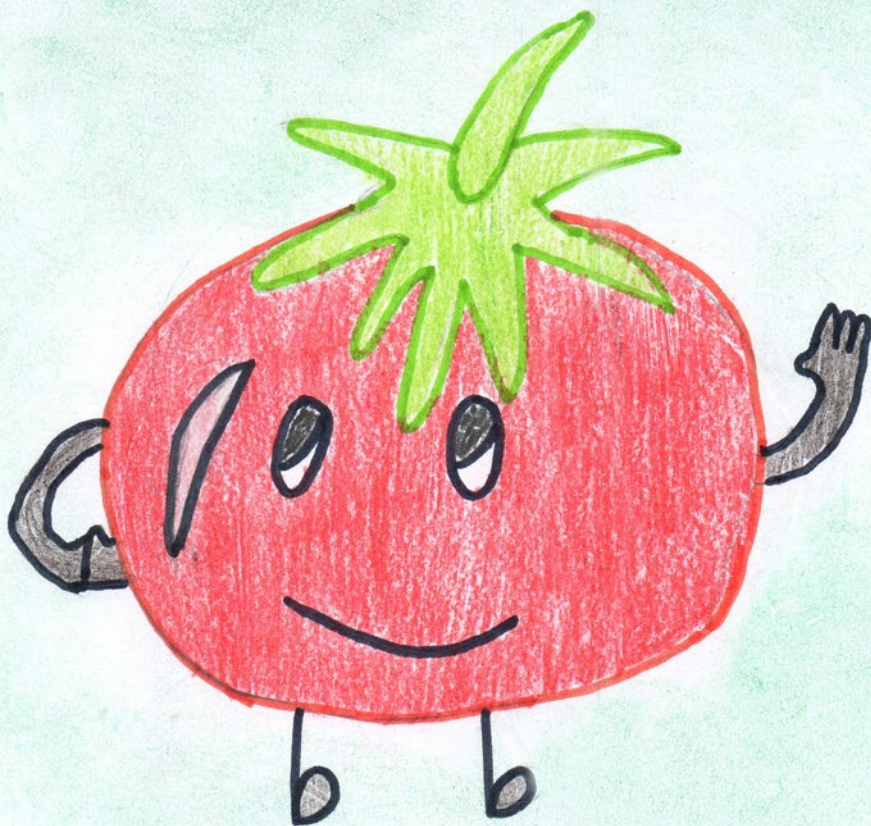
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Enviro-Stories is a PeekDesigns initiative, [www.peekdesigns.com.au](http://www.peekdesigns.com.au).

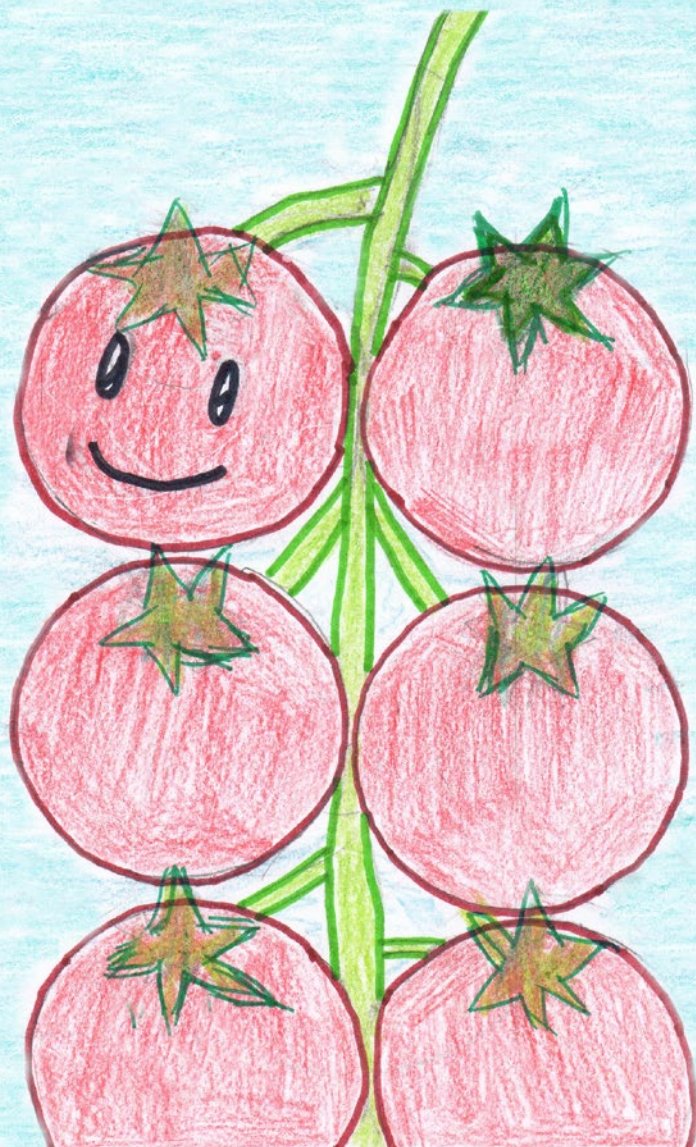
Sunderland, L. 2018. *Guyra Tomatoes*. Cotton Research and Development Corporation, NSW.



Hi! I'm Terry the tomato. I live in Guyra, which is about 37 kilometres north of Armidale – heading towards Glen Innes.



Guyra has a big glasshouse where they grow all of us tomatoes. Our tomato family is huge so we never get bored.



Most tomatoes are grown outside, but here in Guyra, we all grow indoors. It is said that being grown inside reduces having to use as much water and pesticides, which also makes better quality.

We also love the nice warmth provided by the glasshouse.

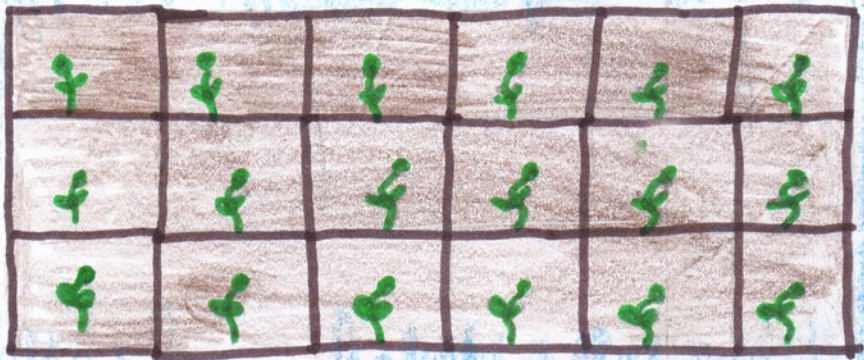


Tomato seeds can be reused, but here in Guyra we only reuse ours every couple of years.

When growing tomatoes you need to start by planting the seeds. Two to three seeds per hole.

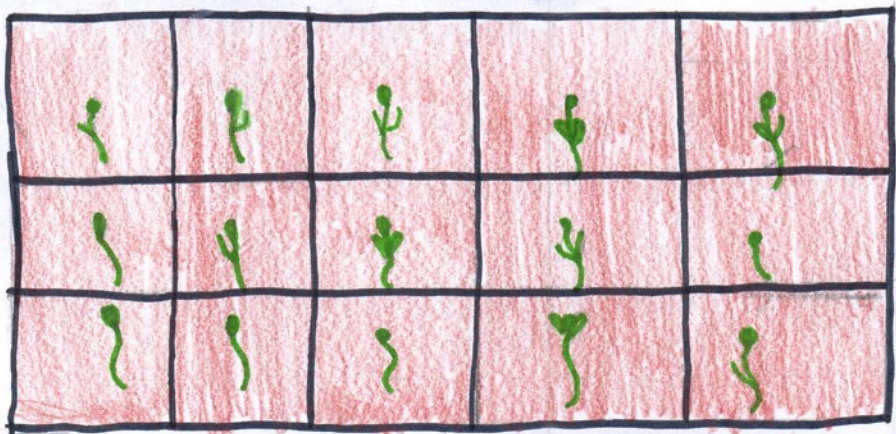


Next comes seed germination which starts to happen when you water the tomato seeds.



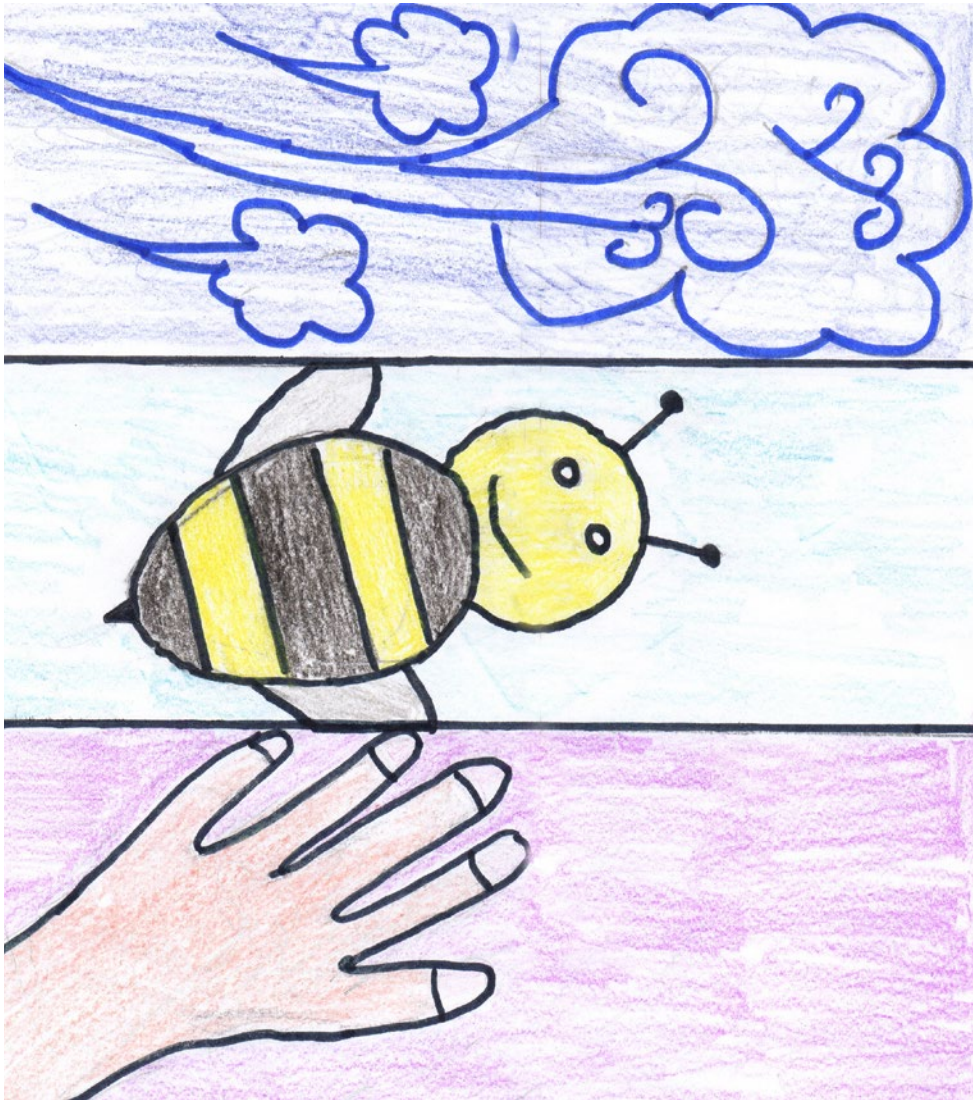


Germination takes five to six days if the soil is at 27°C but if it's at 29°C, it could take up to seven to eight days.



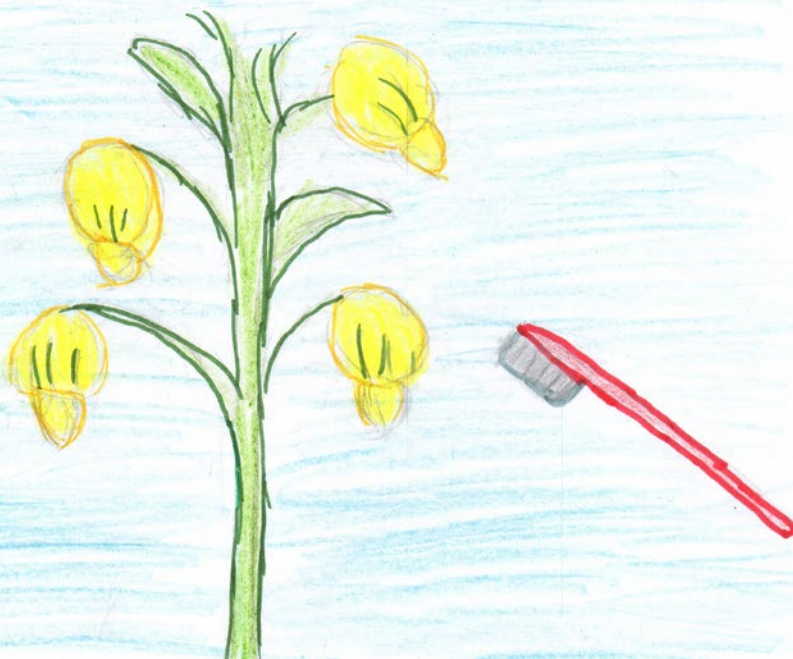


After germination the tomato plant starts to grow. Growth is very important and usually lasts as long as 100 days, which is also about three months.



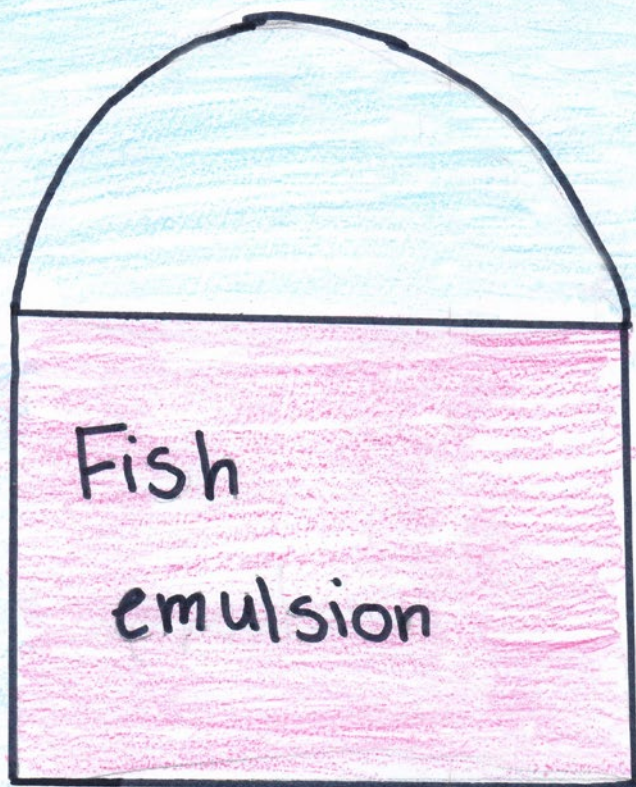
There are many different ways to pollinate us tomatoes. The most common is wind and then bees and other insects. But we tomatoes, here in Guyra, are hand pollinated because we are grown in a glasshouse.

Hand pollination involves the farmers rubbing a toothbrush up the back of the flowers and spreading this pollen to the next flower. Some people even like to collect the pollen.



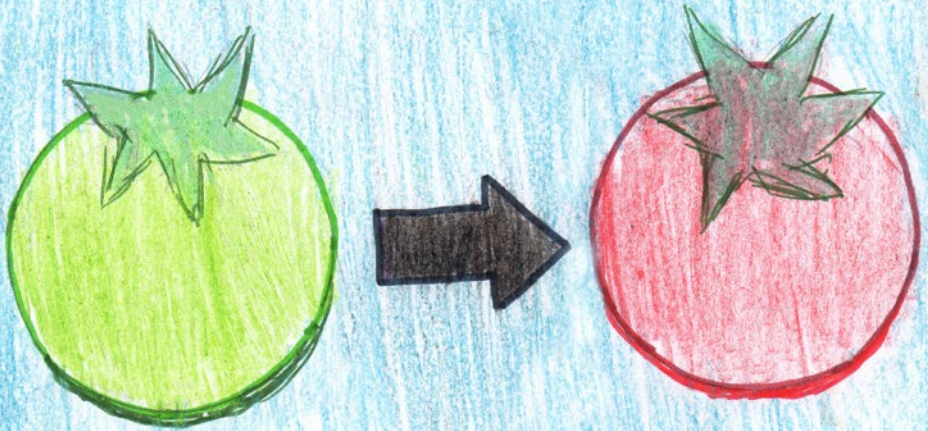
Towards the end of the three months, we are fertilised. The process of growing tomatoes is nearly finished.

'What a successful year so far!'



When the farmers fertilise us they use fish emulsion. This is a natural fertiliser for us tomatoes and gives us an extra boost.





After this we start to see tomatoes ripen and go from green to red. Although we are all tomatoes, we are very different.

Sometimes the tomatoes can be too heavy for the vine, so they have to be picked sooner than others. The rest of us are hand-picked and packed into boxes at the perfect time.





Now I am packed it is nearly time for me to leave! I think I'm being shipped to Woolworths very soon.





My home in Guyra supplies Coles, Aldi, Woolworths and independent grocers' tomatoes via NSW, QLD, VIC, SA market agents.

That's a lot of tomatoes!





Lara Sunderland  
Narrabri Public School, Year 6 2018



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