

Secrets to top tomatoes

h, tomatoes — in a sandwich, a curry, stews and acasseroles, or one of hundreds of recipes, the tomato invariably brings out special

flavours to a dish. But getting one with flavour has been a constant battle for many a cook.

As more and more people turn to growing their own tomatoes to save money and enjoy the flavours of tasty and chemical-free produce, they discover that growing an abundance of healthy fruit is not always easy.

And after the sabotage of million of seedlings in Bowen recently, giving rise to suggestions that tomatoes will double in price by September, now is the time to study how to select and grow the best.

Lucia Grimmer and Annette Welsford of Brisbane have come to the rescue of home growers and share all the inside secrets from experts who provide advice and help to commercial growers and professional horticulturists.

The pair have just released the second edition of their book How to Grow Juicy Tasty Tomatoes.

This edition of the tomato-growing handbook is jam-packed with useful advice, history and plant facts including growing guides and advice, 260 pictorials, disease control, traditional and organic growing, and harvesting.

The pair understand the importance of a book that is comprehensive in coverage, but useful in a practical way.

Delightful touches to the book include its many pictorial glossaries - one of the best resources available to help diagnose tomato plant problems. The book is also chock-full of tomato history and lore.

For anyone who has struggled with tomato diseases, fruit drop and pest issues that prevent them from reaching the pinnacle of tomato

> tastiness, How to Grow Tasty Juicy Tomatoes offers a muchneeded chance of reprieve and success.

The second edition has been released with six bonuses to make it the perfect tomato growing package. The bonus items include a database, problem cultivation solver, guide, conversion guide, diary and a cookbook - a worldwide collection

of family tomato recipes, many of which have been handed down over generations. Every recipe was donated by purchasers of the first edition.

Go to www.bestjuicytomatoes.com for more.

BEST FACILITIES FOR STUDENT BOARDERS AT TOWNSVILLE SCHOOL

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Girls' boarding facilities at The Cathedral School in Townsville are about to undergo a \$3.8-million refurbishment and extension when building works commence on the Sister Frances boarding house this month. The Sister Frances upgrade will allow female boarders access to the new private rooms for senior students with their own study area, high-speed internet access, lockable storage and air-conditioning. This will create a wonderful private learning environment. The boarding house will also include double the space in common rooms for each level,

kitchens, late-night study areas and an administration area, including meeting rooms. The Cathedral School's commitment to its boarding students is also reflected in the \$5-million refurbishment of the boys' boarding house, Akins Dormitory, in 2008.

Director of Boarding, Jock Walker-Campbell, says: "The girls are very excited about the new facilities for next year."

The building works will be completed in time for the start of the 2011 school year, and The Cathedral School will be proud to provide the best boarding facilities in North Queensland.