

## ms1: Raising Tomatoes

RaisingTomatoes.com is an information-based website designed to provide answers and solutions to common tomato-growing problems.

The goal of the site, for the user, is that they can quickly and easily find answers to common problems related to planting/growing and raising tomatoes. The user will likely be a home-grower, although the tips and solutions offered in the articles are geared to any type of grower - eg. small farm or bulk grower for selling at farmer market or for canning/preserving.

The goal of the site, for the site owner, is to generate revenue using online monetisation methods.

Whether a first-time grower or a seasoned grower, the site will offer answers to user questions and possible solutions to the issues they face (tomato pests, changing climate conditions, tomato plant food, complimentary plants, etc.)

The user can expect to find answers and solutions to common questions and problems relating to growing tomatoes, such as:

- pest problems (how to get rid of pests - organic/non-organic/homemade solutions)
- where to source seeds and/or baby plants (garden centres, markets, links to online sellers)
- learning how to plant and grow from seed
- solutions to issues regarding plant health (food, climate, soil, location)
- advice about types of tomatoes to choose for growing, taking environment and personal preference into account

The website aims to provide information about the best, most user-friendly products required by the user to start and successfully grow tomatoes, such as:

- outdoor growing: grow-pots and troughs
- outdoor growing: common garden tools
- indoor growing: grow-pots designed for indoor growing (drainage)
- indoor growing: solutions and tips (location/types of tomatoes)

The site aims to include details, instructions, and tips for the visitor about how to grow and raise tomatoes successfully, in any climate, through web page articles and PDF downloads.

The service offers solutions to the following problems:

- how to grow tomato plants from seed or from seedling;
- the best place to grow tomato plants (indoors and outdoors);
- how to decide on which type of tomato to grow (includes information on heirlooms and hybrids, user need, climate);
- how to maintain tomato plants;
- what to feed tomatoes, when to water, and where to get good food;
- how and when to harvest tomatoes;
- where to source seeds (links to external sites);
- advice about the best tools for planting, maintaining and harvesting tomatoes (links to external sites);
- tips about various tomato-related topics (downloadable PDFs with CTAs/links embedded);

## UX:

My process is to create a straightforward, user-friendly approach without distraction.

The design is simple and to-the-point, offering an easy-to-follow pathway for the user to allow them to quickly and easily find what they're looking for.

Visitors to this site are mainly seeking information on a particular topic, in this case growing tomatoes. The user wants to know many things from how to source seeds to how to plant them successfully. The end goal are good fruit from healthy tomato plants.

To achieve this, the layout has two navigation menus, the main one top-right, and a secondary "bottom" menu centred just above the footer. The bottom menu includes links to Disclaimer/Privacy policies (in full compliance with EU and international online regulations), and a link to the Contact page.

The layout has an easy-to-follow and an easy-to-find navigation system, including embedded links within page content to offer further information on a specific topic.

## User stories:

As a user type ...

1. I want to find information about the best type of tomatoes to grow in my area (re available space, climate, soil, etc) with a view to raising four or five different varieties.
2. I want to know where I can buy good heirloom tomato seeds.
3. I don't know what to feed my tomato plants! My tomatoes were so-so again last year, making this two consecutive years of a low-quality yield. I need information about what I might be doing wrong. (the best food for tomato plants to help them to thrive).
4. I LOVE tomatoes and I eat them daily.
5. I'm tired of getting hit-or-miss overpriced tomatoes at the supermarket, and without a local farmer market in my area, I'm thinking about growing tomatoes myself. I'd like an overview of everything I would need to start growing my own tomatoes (tools, soil, food).
6. I grow my own tomatoes every year, and I'm curious about all the different types of tomatoes out there! I'm mainly looking for info, but I'm ready-to-buy if I see something unusual or of interest.
7. I need information and resources about starting a home veggie garden - I'm interested in herbs, carrots, peas, tomatoes and courgettes. Which are the easiest, and quickest to grow? What type of soil is best? How much space would I need? How would I obtain good quality seeds?
8. I have a greenfly problem! I need to find out how to combat pests in my veggie garden, specifically my tomato plants. I'd prefer non-chemical solutions, if possible.
9. I really want to grow my own tomatoes (as local stores don't stock the best quality). But my problem is space. I live in an apartment and I have very limited space for growing anything.
10. Can I grow tomato plants on my balcony? If so, how? Which types are best for small spaces?

Share links to any wireframes, mockups, diagrams etc. created as part of design process.

Wireframe was created a couple of weeks before deployment. The wireframe is available as a PDF for viewing [here](#). Due to the lateness of my deploying this project, I also include my own notes - aka process - which I carried out locally.

Working with local files is more efficient for me: I process html and css code without the indents! I'm fully aware that this is not conventional, but it remains my preferred method and the most efficient one for me.

However, that is not the reason I haven't deployed my project yet! The reason is time. I started working locally, as I always do, and while it's a bit more work to write everything twice (once locally and again into git), it means I get to proof things better so it saves me time in the long run.

We live in unusual times. This unprecedented time has had a massive impact on my project timeline, which is unfortunate. I will git and deploy what I have so far and time-permitting, I can carry out the debugging (once I've gotten my head around that!). 04.02.21 @ 00:43

In this section, go over different parts of project, and describe each in a sentence or so.

## Features

1. Subscribe button at the very top of each page - allows the user to join a mailing list (once weekly newsletter series).
2. Hyperlinked email address: allows for one-click easy access should the user wish to make contact.
3. Navigation (main): this main navbar at the top of the page allows the user to be guided from page to page, depending on what they are seeking - for example, if the visitor is specifically interested in tomato seeds, there is a nav menu link called Seeds. Further, this link is a dropdown menu, allowing the user to target the type of seed they are interested in, or to a page called About Seeds, which will offer further information. The navigation menu is also coded to display on the right only on a screens of a medium size or larger, by using the div float-md-right class.
4. Embedded links: throughout each page's content, there are links to more specific information should the user wish to be directed there next. All links are optimised for SEO purposes.
- 5.

## Existing Features

Feature 1 - allows users X to achieve Y, by having them fill out Z ...

For some/all features, optional to choose to reference specific project files that implement them. In addition, discuss plans for additional features to be implemented in the future.

## Features left to implement

- 1.
- 2.

## Future feature ideas

- Expand site with non-seasonal veg/herbs using the same layout and context;
- Recipes section (folder): add recipes as individual pages plus downloadable PDFs to specific folder;
- Add more downloads as free eReports;
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## Technologies Used

Mention all languages, frameworks, libraries, other tools used to construct project. For each, provide name, link official site, short sentence of why used:

eg. JQuery The project uses JQuery to simplify DOM manipulation.

- HTML
- CSS: employed to enhance the html code. CSS ideas from w3schools were utilised, in particular flexboxes, responsive design code and Google fonts code.
- Google fonts: two Google fonts were used throughout the site – Roboto and Exo
- Bootstrap v4.3: nav menu with dropdown function was used for the main navigation menu
- Bootstrap v4.3:
- GIMP: used to resize images and create .png versions
- Gitpod: used to write code and documentation for deployment to Github.
- Github: used to store the project as a live site for review by assessors.
- Figma: used to create a wireframe as a mockup of design ideas before writing the code (creating the site).
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## Testing

In this section, you need to convince the assessor that you have conducted enough testing to legitimately believe that the site works well. Essentially, in this part you will want to go over all of your user stories from the UX section and ensure that they all work as intended, with the project providing an easy and straightforward way for the users to achieve their goals.

Whenever it is feasible, prefer to automate your tests, and if you've done so, provide a brief explanation of your approach, link to the test file(s) and explain how to run them.

For any scenarios that have not been automated, test the user stories manually and provide as much detail as is relevant. A particularly useful form for describing your testing process is via scenarios, such as:

Contact form:

Go to the "Contact Us" page  
Try to submit the empty form and verify that an error message about the required fields appears  
Try to submit the form with an invalid email address and verify that a relevant error message appears  
Try to submit the form with all inputs valid and verify that a success message appears.

In addition, you should mention in this section how your project looks and works on different browsers and screen sizes.

- Removed code: removed Google font

Tested form several times when created and sporadically after that (I just like it, it's cute!). However, this is not my "testing" phase yet. That's planned for a later stage (when site is complete or near completion).

Looks well on FF and Brave, so far. Haven't tested on others (need to download/install). FF displays footer font bigger than determined. SOLUTION: investigate and override using ... override code.

Dang! And <hr> (top of page) not displaying because of the navbar. NAV needs to be dealt with, despite my many attempts. Alternative (quick solution), although likely temporary (problem will likely display in other browsers), is to increase top margin (or padding?) of horizontal rule.

I'm aware of a number of issues and things requiring more attention. However, the hour is late and a gal's gotta sleep! Actually, there isn't time before the deadline to resolve everything, but that's why I'm the student :)

## Issues

1. Responsive design not employed correctly in footer and header – text is not wrapping on smaller screen view, likely due to using the wrong type of code. Everywhere else it's working as it should.
2. Bootstrap nav: couldn't get it to align right, mentor suggested float property. That worked.
3. Bootstrap nav: cannot change the colour of the links, no matter how many things I try – list-item, nav-item, etc. Nothing worked. SOLUTION: Need to ask mentor tomorrow (if time).
4. Bootstrap nav: cannot get the position right. I wanted it as part of the top flexbox, and had to use -margin property (i.e. -20px), which will interfere with responsive design. SOLUTION would be to redo flexbox to incorporate it?? Might have to leave it as is, due to time restraints.
5. Social media links in footer: I did them as standard, did not take into account responsive design. SOLUTION: redo as flexbox. (no time)
6. Social media links in footer: I tried to use the FontAwesome icons but they don't exist for most of these sm companies. For consistency, I didn't use any. SOLUTION: create own icons using sm company logos. Display as small round images with each link embedded, or similar.
7. Subscribe (to Newsletter) box not complete. I don't have the JS skills yet, but would like to have had a basic reaction, i.e. when link is clicked, form confirms subscription (says "thanks for subscribing" or similar).
8. Subscriber forms: cannot move script to any other position within html file. I don't know why. Further, tried to use "required" for name element of form, but no luck so far (there's no "name" attribute to add it to; I tried a couple of options but nothing changed so far).
9. Fix subscribe button to display a message after submitting: while beyond the scope of this project, i.e. not covered yet in course and not requested for this project (at least I don't think it is... Oops!), I didn't have enough time to figure it out. I'd like it to do what it's supposed to do;
10. Fix top navbar – despite many (many) attempts, I could not override Bootstrap's default link colours even though I tried all manner of class names in stylesheet;
11. Make galleries more user friendly (and a little prettier!): add popup, containing link to more detailed info, with brief info about each type of tomato, such as variety/breed, type (determinate/indeterminate), price, best breeders/sellers;
12. Fix form on lower end of each page (lwr-flex-left): textarea displays ever-so-slightly shorter than Name and Email when using size attribute – I had size="40" for both fields, and textarea set to rows="5" cols="5", but textarea displayed shorter than the other two so I reset Name and Email to size="20". I would like to know what the problem is;

You should also mention in this section any interesting bugs or problems you discovered during your testing, even if you haven't addressed them yet.

If this section grows too long, you may want to split it off into a separate file and link to it from here.

## Deployment

This section should describe the process you went through to deploy the project to a hosting platform (e.g. GitHub Pages or Heroku).

Particular, provide all details of **differences between deployed and development version**, if any:  
 Different values for environment variables (Heroku Config Vars)?  
 Different configuration files?  
 Separate git branch?

I don't quite know what that means (I don't yet know what I don't know).

If not obvious, describe how to run code locally.

03.02.21 @ 21:56

Still haven't had a chance to deploy. To be honest, I process faster using local .txt files, etc. I prefer html and css without indents – makes for much easier reading/comprehending/processing, so I kept going today to get finished.

03.02.21 @ 04:28

Time restraints (thanks lockdown!) means I still haven't deployed. SOLUTION would have been to forget my pedantic prep work and go straight to git. Another point: I'm not yet proficient enough using markdown – despite spending two afternoons at it last week – it's been quicker and more efficient to take notes here (.odt) or in .txt (will upload all notes)

02.02.21 @ 14:45

Haven't deployed anything yet. Started project locally using .txt/.html files – easier and quicker for me to get an initial feel for the design I wanted.

## Content

**Written content:** All written content was created and written by the developer.

**Media:** Photos used on raisingtomatoes.com are from:

marysheirloomseeds.com  
healthrangerstore.com  
thespruce.com  
heirlooms.webp: istetiana/Getty Images

## **Credits**

Content: The text for section Y was copied from the Wikipedia article Z

**Acknowledgements:** I received inspiration for this project from X

Thank you to my mentor, Oluwafemi, for his support (even at the last minute he made time for me!)