Sun - Tomatoes and peppers need direct sun, as much as possible. South facing is best.

Soil - Tomato / pepper plants need well composted and fertilized soil that offers calcium.

Soil Amendments & Fertilizer - Compost up to 30% of soil volume.
In the planting hole itself add the following:
- Bone meal, fish meal, alfalfa pellets
- NPK fertilizer (tomato specific or 16-16-16 with calcium)
- Worm castings
- Mycorrhizal fungi

Peppers need additional monthly organic fertilizer applied side dressed to the soil.

Planting – Soak root ball and the planting hole before transplant.
- Plant tomato seedlings so half the stem is buried in the hole.
- Plant pepper seedlings at soil level to avoid stem rot. Plant doublets.

Irrigation (watering),
- Timed drip irrigation in early morning is best.
- Water the roots not the foliage.
- For tomatoes, reduce watering later in the season (July 1).

Pollination – self-pollinating. Buzz pollinating is helpful, but not necessary.

Staking, Caging – needed to support tomato and pepper plants. Keep the fruit off the soil.

Insects, Diseases and Pests
- Tomato hornworm – pluck off & feed to birds
- Tomato russet mite affects stems and leaves
- Rats – trap, don’t poison
- What to do? Call MG Help Desk
  M-F 9:30 am–12:30 pm 408-282-3105
- Or Contact Us: http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/contact-us/ask-a-gardening-question/

More information
UC Master Gardener Santa Clara County website: http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu
  - http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/garden-help/vegetables/tomatoes/
  - http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/garden-help/vegetables/peppers/

MG Spring Garden Market, April 18, 2020
http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/spring-garden-market/