



# Tomato whopper tops 1kg

GIANT zucchinis and giant pumpkins have been seen before, but backyard gardener George Nikakis has produced a giant tomato.

The whopper, grown in his Lenah Valley back yard, tips the scales at more than 1kg, more than 10 times the normal size.

Mr Nikakis, 78, said he had been growing fruit and vegetables all of his life and he had never seen a season anything like it.

"I was so excited when I saw it. It is amazing the plant could hold it," Mr Nikakis said.

He said the secret to producing large fruit was staying away from fertilisers and anything unnatural.

"I just plant it in the ground and then leave it alone, apart from water," he said.

Mr Nikakis, who emigrated to Australia from Greece 34 years ago, said he planned to use the tomato to make a Greek salad.

"We will need to invite the family over to help us eat it because there is far too much for us," he said.

He said he'd been growing tomatoes at his current home for 10 years, but this was the first time they'd grown larger than average.

"Maybe there's something in the soil ... or maybe I'm just lucky this year," he said.

Mr Nikakis said he intended to tell *Guinness World Records* about his feat, but unfortunately he still has some work to do before he beats the record of 3.5kg, grown in Oklahoma in 1986.

**HUGE SUCCESS:** The giant tomato grown by Lenah Valley gardener George Nikakis, 78. Picture: KIM EISZELE