

Master Gardeners



**University of California Cooperative Extension
Master Gardener Program
of San Mateo & San Francisco Counties**

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Tomato Varieties

Master Gardener Spring Garden Market and Plant Sale 2015

CLASSICS	<i>Classics are smooth, round tomatoes that are larger than cherry tomatoes and smaller than beefsteaks. Good all-around tomatoes.</i>			
Variety Name	Description and comments	Color	Type	Days
Carmello (OP)	Bears large crops of heavy, juicy tomatoes with flavor that just doesn't stop, even in cooler weather. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Red	Indet	70-75
Cherokee Purple (OP) (Heirloom)	Beautiful rose-purple fruit has sweet, rich, complex flavor. Consistently productive. Fruit 10-12 oz. Heirloom from Tennessee	Purple	Indet	80
Chocolate Stripes (OP)	Large, regular-leaf tomato plants that yield a plentiful crop of 3-4", mahogany colored with dark, olive green-stripping. Fruits have delicious, complex, rich, sweet, earthy tomato flavors. Produces well into the autumn.	Dark Red/Green	Indet	79
Defiant PHR (F1)	High resistance to late blight and intermediate resistance to early blight combined with great flavor. The 6-8 oz., globe-shaped fruit are smooth and medium-firm with good texture. Deep red internal and external color. High-yielding, medium-sized plants are widely adaptable.	Red	Det	70
Early Wonder (OP)	This extra-early maturing, compact variety makes an impressive crop of round, dark pink tomatoes with an average weight of 6 oz. They have excellent, full tomato flavor. Good for containers. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Dark Pink	Det	55
Golden Queen (Heirloom)	Disease resistant heirloom introduced by Livingston in 1882. Yields large, 8-12 ounce, waxy, yellow tomatoes with mild yet superb sweet flavors. A wonderful, very flavorful tomato.	Yellow- Orange	Indet	75

Green Zebra (OP)	A unique and delicious salad tomato with 3 oz. green fruits ripen to amber green with darker green stripes. The light green flesh is very flavorful, sweet, yet zingy. Good choice for cool/foggy areas	Green	Indet	75
New Girl	First early variety, great taste. Fruits average 4-6 oz. and are better tasting and more disease resistant than Early Girl. Holds better than First Lady II. Widely adapted.	Red	Indt	62
Orange Blossom (F1)	The best early orange tomato! The medium-firm, globe-shaped fruits average 6-7 oz., have a nice texture, and are mildly flavored, balanced with a little acidity. Developed by Dr. Brent Loy, Univ. of New Hampshire.	Orange	Det	60
Polbig (F1)	High yields of very good tasting, meaty, 6-8 oz. globe shaped fruit. Uniform ripening time. Excellent deep red internal and external color. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Red	Det	60
Stupice (OP) (Heirloom)	Czech origin, with potato-type leaf, very early, cold tolerant, highly productive, small 2-3", very flavorful fruit. Good choice for cool/foggy areas	Red	Indet	52
Taxi	The best early yellow tomato! Meaty, 4-6 oz., baseball-sized, lemon-yellow tomatoes. Smooth, blemish-free globes with a small stem scar. Attractive, sweet-flavored, and easy to grow. Concentrated early set. Compact, dark green vine. Widely adapted. Very prolific!	Yellow	Det	64
Visitation Valley (OP)	Early potato-leaf plants with bright red, small, round 1-2 oz. fruits with very good to excellent intense flavor. More sweet than acidic.	Red	Indt	65

BEEFSTEAKS *Generally large to very large tomatoes, usually somewhat irregular in shape, often take longer to mature. These are the ones to brag about!*

Variety Name	Description and comments	Color	Type	Days
Aunt Ruby German Green (OP)	Large green beefsteaks ripen to pale green with a tint of yellow and have a pink blush underneath that extends inside the flesh. The flavor is sweet, spicy and delicious. Fruit weighs from 12-16 oz., and has the smoothest shape of any large green tomato.	Green-Yellow	Indet	80
Beauty (OP) (Heirloom)	Lovely scalloped beefsteak. Heavy crops of 12-16 oz. fruits with wonderful "tomatoey" flavor. Matures fairly early. Keeps well. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Pink	Indet	75

Black Krim (OP) (Heirloom)	Dark brown-red tomatoes are large, 10-12 oz., and very richly flavored with just a hint of saltiness. Color is darker in hot weather and fruit seems to set well even in the heat. Some cracking possible, but a very heavy producer. Also suitable for container/patio gardening. Heirloom from the Black Sea of Russia.	Black	Indet	75-90
Brandywine; Sudduth's Strain (OP)	This is widely known as the original Pink Brandywine strain. Many gardeners consider this strain the best Brandywine with fruit that is superior in taste and smoothness. Its tomatoes are 1-2 lb. pink beefsteaks with the delectably complex, rich, sweet flavor that has made Brandywine justifiably famous.	Pink	Indet	85
Burpee's Big Boy	Bred and introduced in 1949, its incredible productivity and gorgeous, perfect, large red fruit made it an instant hit. What's kept Big Boy tomato a best-selling tomato all these years is the wonderful aroma and rich flavor. The fruits weigh in 10 oz. with many reaching 1 lb. or more. Healthy, indeterminate vines produce all summer long.	Red	Indet	78
Burpee's Supersteak (HY)	Introduced in 1980, this is the modern version of the old-fashioned beefsteak, with the imperfections removed. The fruit has the same rich flavor, but slightly more acid, and is smoother and less prone to cat-facing; smaller core and blossom end scar. Average weight is 1 lb., but they often grow to 2 lbs.	Red	Indet	80
Paul Robeson (OP) (Heirloom)	One of the most highly regarded black tomatoes. This one features medium sized deep maroon fruits that are free of most blemishes and cracking. Their flavor is complex, sweet yet tangy, and characteristic of that distinctive richness that makes black tomatoes special. Russian heirloom. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Black	Indet	75
Pruden's Purple	Often favorably compared with the illustrious Brandywine, the gold standard of heirloom tomatoes. With dark pinkish-purple skin and potato-plant like leaves, this widely adapted heirloom produces large, slightly flattened 1 lb. fruits with firm, meaty, crimson flesh and few seeds.	Red	Indet	77
Striped German	The flat, medium to large, variably ribbed-shoulder tomatoes are shaded yellow and red. The marbled interior looks beautiful sliced. Complex, fruity flavor and smooth texture. Medium-tall vines bear 12+ oz. fruit.	Pink-Yellow	Indet	78
Tangerine (OP) (Heirloom)	Deep yellow-orange, large beefsteak fruit is shaped like a tangerine. The texture is meaty and the flavor is sweet and rich. This variety is a heavy producer!	Yellow-Orange	Indet	80-85
Virginia Sweets (OP) (Heirloom)	This heirloom variety is one of the best tasting, best producing gold-red bicolors. The tomatoes are stunningly beautiful and enormous, weighing at least 1 lb. each. Golden yellow beefsteaks are colored with red stripes that turn into a ruby blush on top of the golden fruit. Flavor is sweet and rich and harvests are abundant.	Yellow-Red	Indet	80

PASTES				
	<i>Meaty tomatoes with little seed gel. Great for slicing in salads, canning, or processing into tomato paste or sauce. Usually elongated or plum shaped.</i>			
Variety Name	Description and comments	Color	Type	Days
Jersey Devil (OP)	4" – 6" long, bright red fruits are shaped like banana peppers. Prolific, very meaty & sweet, few seeds. Excellent for canning as well as eating fresh. Taste test winner! Good for salsas!	Red	Indet	80
Mama Leone	This excellent, large pointed plum tomato comes from Italy via a family who immigrated to New York. You can expect a large harvest of these 5 to 6 oz. bright red tomatoes that are meaty with very few seeds. These are the perfect tomatoes to turn into a simmering pot of sauce full of rich tomato goodness.	Red	Indet	75
Roma	The classic sauce and paste tomato. Compact plants produce paste-type tomatoes resistant to Verticillium and Fusarium wilts. Meaty interiors and few seeds.	Red	Det	70
San Marzano Redorta (Heirloom)	Tomatoes are 8 oz and 4 "long. A much larger tomato with much better taste than its cousin, San Marzano. Good enough to eat off the vine with the bonus of ending up with more tomato paste per plant. Heirloom from Tuscany.	Red	Indet	78

CHERRIES				
	<i>Small, bite-size tomatoes, great for salads and snacking. Kids and adults love them!</i>			
Variety Name	Description and comments	Color	Type	Days
Black Cherry (OP)	A perfectly round cherry with classic black tomato flavor, sweet yet rich and complex. Fruit picks clean from the stem and is produced in abundance on vigorous, tall plants. Disease resistant Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Black	Indet	65
Grape Tomato - Green	Large, slightly oblong, green tomato that's borne in clusters of 8-9 and turns yellowish-green when ripe. Very nice sweet flavor; juicy with tiny seeds and great yields.	Green	Indet	79
Grape Tomato - Red	Long, grape-like clusters of red elongated cherry tomatoes. Vigorous vines are very productive. Crack resistant and tolerant of heat and a number of tomato diseases. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Red	Indet	60

Ildi (OP) (Heirloom)	Oval yellow cherries are about the size and shape of a large grape, with a well-balanced flavor that is a delicious combination of sweet and acid. Vigorous plants are quite prolific, producing large harvests. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Yellow	Indet	54
Indigo Blue Berries	As appealing to the palate and eye as the name implies! Plants produce trusses of delightfully delectable 1-2 oz. tomatoes. The green fruit quickly develops purple tops and crimson bottoms, ripening to a midnight black tone with deep, maroon-colored bottoms. Extra nutritious from containing high levels of the naturally occurring antioxidant anthocyanin!	Purple-Black	Indet	75
Jaune Flamme (OP)	These beautiful orange salad tomatoes are very juicy and have a good, sweet flavor with fruity overtones. Tomatoes weigh 2 to 3 oz. and are a lovely persimmon orange color both inside and out. Extremely productive heirloom from France. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Orange	Indet	70
Juliet Hybrid	1999 ALL AMERICAN SELECTIONS WINNER. Elongated cherry tomatoes grow in grape-like clusters and really load up on vigorous vines. The 1 oz. fruit has red, glossy skin and wonderful sweet flavor. The fruit is crack-resistant and holds on the vine better than most cherry tomatoes. Expect high yields on plants that are tolerant to late blight and leaf spot. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Red	Indet	60
Mountain Magic (VFF) (HY)	High yields of 2 oz., bright red, round salad tomatoes with very sweet flavor. The uniform, crack-resistant fruits may be truss harvested. Resistant to early and late blight. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Red	Indet	72
Sun Gold Hybrid	Very sweet, bright orange cherry tomatoes taste sugary, fruity and delicious. Vigorous growers, these tall plants bear long clusters of fruit. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Orange	Indet	57
Sweet Chelsea (VFFNT) (HY)	Jumbo-sized cherry tomatoes with extra sweet taste and is resistant to cracking. Vigorous vines, tolerant of 10 different diseases, should be staked or caged. Fifteen to 20 fruits per cluster. Harvest lasts until frost. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Red	Indet	67

University of California Cooperative Extension

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Definitions and Symbols Key

Tomato Types

Classic – Generally round & smooth, ranging from medium-small to medium-large in size. Sometimes called main crop or slicing tomatoes.

Beefsteak – Generally large to very large, usually somewhat irregular in shape, often later to mature.

Paste – Generally elongated shapes and often meatier with less seed gel, hence good for processing as sauce & paste.

Cherry – Small, bite-size tomatoes.

Growth Habits

Det – Determinate. The plant grows to a certain point, then stops and sets fruit which ripen in a short, concentrated harvest. Height is often 4' or less.

Indet – Indeterminate. Also called vining tomatoes, the plant grows continuously until it dies, continuing to flower & set tomatoes until the end. Can get quite large, at least 5', often more.

Semi – Semi-indeterminate. Larger than determinate but not as large as indeterminate. About 4'.

DwInd. – Dwarf indeterminate. Short & bushy like determinates, but keep producing indefinitely like indeterminates. A new category.

Seed Types

OP – Open-pollinated. Seeds from open-pollinated varieties can be saved because they will produce plants and fruit that are identical to their parent. All heirlooms are OP.

Hybrid – Seeds cannot be saved because they will not come true. Hybrid seeds can only be bought from a seed company who produces it by crossing particular parent plants.

Heirloom – Always open-pollinated, therefore seeds can be saved. Heirlooms have generally been saved and passed on by generation after generation in some family or community who would select the best plants to save seeds from.

Key to disease resistance and/or tolerance

V – Verticillium wilt tolerance

F1 – Fusarium wilt (race 1) tolerance

F2 – Fusarium wilt (race 2) tolerance

FF – Fusarium wilt (race 1 & 2) tolerance

N – Nematodes tolerance

St – Stemphyllium tolerance

A – Alternaria stem canker tolerance

T – Tobacco mosaic virus tolerance

Note: Only hybrids list disease resistance because seed companies pay to have the seed tested and certified. Heirlooms may well be resistant also.

Master Gardener Helpline:

For advice or more information, call us.

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