

Master Gardeners



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

80 Stone Pine Road #100, Half Moon Bay, CA 94109
Helpline: 650-726-9059 X107
mgvhelpline@ucdavis.edu
www.mastergardentomatosale.org



Tomato Varieties

2014 Master Gardener Tomato & Vegetable Plant Sale

Classics				
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 F1	Disease resistant heirloom introduced by Livingston in 1882. Yields large, 8-12 oz fruits with light, fruity aroma and a thin skin. It is meaty with a nice acidity and mild, yet superb sweet flavors. It slices very well and incorporates all the pleasures of a red tomato with a lovely golden color. Resistant to late blight. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	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
Indigo Rose (OP)	The first improved variety in the world that had powerful anthocyanins in it's fruit. Green when unripe, purple-red when ripe, the 1-2 oz large cocktail-sized fruits have good flavor with 'plummy' overtones.	Purple	Indet	75
Orange Blossom F1	The medium-firm globe shaped fruits average 6-7 oz, have a nice texture, are mildly flavored, and balanced with a little acidity. Developed by Dr. Brent Loy, University of New Hampshire. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Orange	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
Beefsteaks	<i>Generally large to very large tomatoes, usually somewhat irregular in shape, often take longer to mature. These are the ones to brag about.</i>			
Variety Name	Description and comments	Color	Type	Days
Aunt Ruby German Green (OP)	Large, green beefsteaks ripen to pale green with a hint of yellow and have a pink blush underneath that extends inside the flesh. The flavor is sweet, spicy, and delicious. Fruit weighs 12-16 oz and has the smoothest shape of any large green beefsteak.	Yellow /Green	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 to 12 ozs, 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. Prone to cracking, but a very heavy producer. Also suitable for container/patio gardening. Heirloom from the Black Sea of Russia.	Black	Indet	75-90
Burpee 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 catfacing; 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
Suddith Strain Brandywine (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 to 2 lb. pink beefsteaks with the delectably complex, rich, sweet flavor that has made Brandywine justifiably famous.	Pink	Indet	85
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 (Heirloom)	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 5-6 oz bright red fruits that are meaty with very few seeds. These are the perfect choice to turn into a simmering pot of sauce or for canning to have delicious tomatoes all year long.	Red	Indet	75-80
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 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
Green Grape (Heirloom)	The distinctive, yellow-green fruits are borne in clusters of 6-12 that resemble large muscat grapes. Translucent pale green inside, this variety has become very popular in restaurants and markets because of their unique attractiveness and great flavor.	Green	Det	65
Red Grape	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 (OP)	Very high levels of the powerful antioxidant anthocyanin that show up in the beautiful deep-purple skin. Unripe fruits are amethyst colored but ripen to almost black with a bit of red on the bottom. When fully ripened, they have a delicious plum-like flavor and are quite easy to grow. Their appearance is striking enough to turn heads at farmers' markets or become the centerpiece of home gardens.	Purple	Indet	75
Isis Candy (OP)	This variety produces yellow-gold cherry tomatoes with red marbling, which varies from just a red blush to extensive streaking. All have a sweet taste that is also rich and fruity. Tomatoes are about 3/4 inch. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.	Yellow/ Gold	Indet	67
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
Red Grape (OP)	Long, grape-like clusters of brilliant red elongated fruits that are very sweet and complex in flavor. Vigorous vines are very productive and fruits are crack-resistant. Disease resistant and very heat-tolerant.	Red	Indet	60

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

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

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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:

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