



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

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## Tomato Varieties

### Master Gardener Tomato & Pepper Plant Sale **2014**

<b>Classics</b>				
	<i>Classics are smooth, round tomatoes that are larger than cherry tomatoes and smaller than beefsteaks. Good all-around tomatoes.</i>			
<b>Variety Name</b>	<b>Description and comments</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Days</b>
<b>Carmello (OP)</b>	Bears large crops of heavy, juicy tomatoes with flavor that just doesn't stop, even in cooler weather. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Red	Indet	70-75
<b>Cherokee Purple (OP) (Heirloom)</b>	Beautiful rose-purple fruit has sweet, rich, complex flavor. Consistently productive. Fruit 10-12 oz. Heirloom from Tennessee	Purple	Indet	80
<b>Chocolate Stripes (OP)</b>	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
<b>Defiant PHR (F1)</b>	<b>High resistance to late blight</b> 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
<b>Early Wonder (OP)</b>	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. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Dark pink	Det	55
<b>Golden Queen</b>	Disease resistant heirloom introduced by Livingston in 1882. Yields large, 8-12 oz fruits. Light, fruity aroma, thin skin, meaty with nice acidity, and sweet flavor. Slices well, golden in color.	Golden	Indet	75
<b>Green Zebra (OP)</b>	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. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas</b>	Green	Indet	75
<b>Indigo Rose (OP)</b>	The first imported variety in the world that had anthocyanins in its fruit. Green when unripe, purple-red when ripe, the 1-2oz cocktail-sized tomatoes have good flavor with plummy overtones.	Purple	Indet	80
<b>Orange Blossom (F1)</b>	The medium-firm, globe-shaped fruits average 6-7 oz., have a nice texture, little acidity, and mild flavor.	Orange	Det	60
<b>Stupice (OP) (Heirloom)</b>	Czech origin, with potato-type leaf, very early, cold tolerant, highly productive, small (2"-3"), very flavorful fruit. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas</b>	Red	Indet	52

<b>Beefsteaks</b>		<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>		
<b>Variety Name</b>	<b>Description and comments</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Days</b>
<b>Beauty (OP)</b> (Heirloom)	Lovely scalloped beefsteak. Heavy crops of 12-16 oz. fruits with wonderful “tomatoey” flavor. Matures fairly early. Keeps well. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Pink	Indet	75
<b>Black Krim (OP)</b> (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
<b>Burpee Supersteak (HY)</b>	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
<b>Aunt Ruby German Green (OP)</b>	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 to 16 oz, and has the smoothest shape of any large green tomato.	Green-yellow	Indet	80
<b>Paul Robeson (OP)</b> (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. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Black	Indet	75
<b>Suddith Strain Brandywine (OP)</b>	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
<b>Tangerine (OP)</b> (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
<b>Virginia Sweets (OP)</b> (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
<b>Pastes</b>		<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>		
<b>Variety Name</b>	<b>Description and comments</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Days</b>
<b>Jersey Devil (OP)</b>	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
<b>Mama Leone</b>	This excellent, large pointed plum tomato comes from Italy via a family who immigrated to New York. Large harvests of bright red tomatoes are meaty with few seeds. Perfect for sauce.	Red	Ident	80
<b>San Marzano Redorta</b> (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

<b>Cherries</b>	<i>Small, bite-size tomatoes, great for salads and snacking. Kids love them.</i>			
<b>Variety Name</b>	<b>Description and comments</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Days</b>
<b>Black Cherry (OP)</b>	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 <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Black	Indet	65
<b>Green Grape Tomato</b>	The distinctive, yellowish green fruits are borne in clusters of 6-12 that resemble large muscat grapes. Fruit has a translucent pale-green on the inside. This variety has become popular in restaurants and markets because of their unique attractiveness and great flavor.	Red	Indet	60
<b>Ildi (OP)</b> (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. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Yellow	Indet	54
<b>Indigo Blue Berries</b>	Very high levels of the powerful antioxidant anthocyanin that show up as beautiful deep purple skin. Unripe fruit are amethyst colored, but ripen to almost black with a bit of brick red on the bottom. They have a delicious plum-like flavor and are quite easy to grow.	Black	Ident	75
<b>Isis Candy (OP)</b>	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. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Bi-color	Indet	67
<b>Jaune Flamme (OP)</b>	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. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Orange	Indet	70
<b>Juliet Hybrid</b>	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 <b>tolerant to late blight</b> and leaf spot. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Red	Indet	60
<b>Mountain Magic VFF HY</b>	High yields of 2 oz., bright red, round salad tomatoes with very sweet flavor. The uniform, crack-resistant fruits may be truss harvested. <b>Resistant to early and late blight. Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Red	Indet	72
<b>Red Grape</b>	Long, grape-like clusters of brilliant red elongated cherry tomatoes have earned this variety its name. Very sweet, complex flavor is delicious and has made these tomatoes a favorite of people everywhere. In fact, pints of these have become a popular supermarket item. Vigorous vines are very productive. Crack-resistant and tolerant to heat and a number of tomato diseases.	Red	Indet	75
<b>Sun Gold Hybrid</b>	Very sweet, bright orange cherry tomatoes taste sugary, fruity and delicious. Vigorous growers, these tall plants bear long clusters of fruit. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Orange	Indet	57
<b>Sweet Chelsea VFFNT HY</b>	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. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	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

- 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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Or send us an e-mail to:  
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