

2025 Master Gardener Public Tomato Trial



UC Master Gardener
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

About the Trial

In 2025, the Santa Clara County Master Gardeners invited gardeners to join them in trialing three tomato varieties: Green Doctors, Queen of the Night, and Sart Roloise. The purpose of this citizen science project was to learn how the tomatoes would perform for gardeners from across the county, who are growing in different microclimates, have different types of gardens, and have different preferences for tomato appearance and flavor. Participants evaluated tomatoes for four traits: blossom end rot resistance, flavor, vigor, and yield.

Summary of Results

Green Doctors



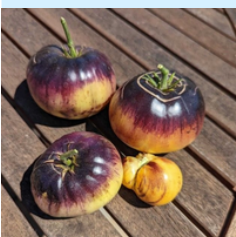
Of the three varieties, Green Doctors was the most highly rated. Green Doctors performed highest in yield, vigor, and flavor. Gardeners generally enjoyed the flavor, commenting that it was “very sweet when ripe” and had a “good combination of sweetness and acidity.” They noted that the tomatoes should be fully ripened for optimal flavor, but that the bright green color could make it “more difficult than other varieties to tell when ripe.” Yield and vigor both had mixed responses, with some stating it had “vigorous growth” and a “very abundant yield,” while others stated it was “not as abundant as other cherry tomatoes.” Gardeners also warned that the ripe fruit is prone to splitting. Green Doctors had no issues with blossom end rot. **58%** of gardeners said they would grow Green Doctors again.

Queen of the Night



Queen of the Night had mixed reviews across all categories. The most positively reviewed aspect of this variety was its aesthetic appearance and “interesting [red] coloring.” While some liked the taste, calling it “sweet with a hint of tartness,” many stated that this was overpowered by the tomatoes’ very thick skin and slightly mushy texture. The vigor and yield were ranked as average. Queen of the Night had no issues with blossom end rot. **53%** of gardeners said they would grow Queen of the Night again.

Sart Roloise



Comments on the Sart Roloise variety were mixed, but generally negative. The main complaint was its mild taste. Although some gardeners enjoyed it, most found the flavor to be bland and the texture “mushy.” This variety seemed to be more sensitive to disease than the others, but some found it to be vigorous. Additionally, this variety experienced issues with blossom end rot during the beginning of the season, although this diminished over time. The yield also received mixed reviews. The coloring of this tomato is a bright purple, which “changed to partly yellow to indicate that the tomato is ripe.” **48%** of gardeners said they would grow Sart Roloise again.

Average Ratings for Trial Tomatoes



Green Doctors



Queen of the Night



Sart Roloise

Trait	Green Doctors	Queen of the Night	Sart Roloise
Yield	3.8	3.7	3.2
Vigor	3.9	3.7	3.5
Flavor	4.1	3.7	3.5

Each trait was rated on a scale from 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good). Higher numbers mean a more favorable rating.

About the Participants

94 people recorded their tomatoes' results. Some provided additional information about their gardens.

Most common garden types

- Raised beds – 39%
- Containers – 23%
- In ground – 23%

Growing conditions

- 58% of participants reported that summer 2025 was cooler than average
- 35% said it was average temperature

Common ways of watering

- Drip irrigation – 42%
- Garden hose – 35%

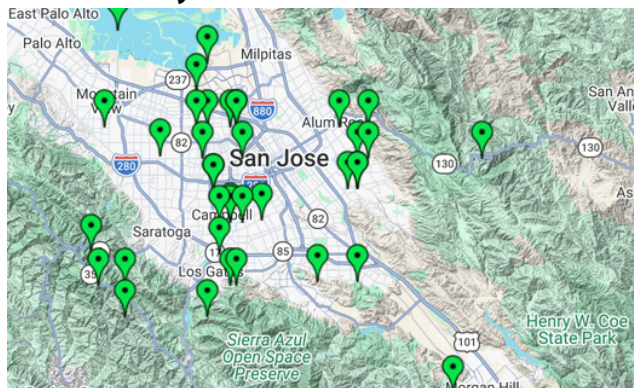
Growing challenges

- Vertebrate pests (such as deer, birds, and squirrels) – 26%
- Plant disease – 26%

Feeding the soil

- Added compost – 68%
- Added fertilizer – 45%

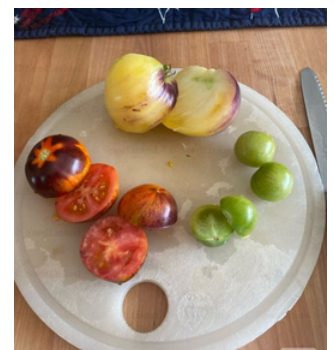
Participant Locations: Tomatoes grown in a variety of growing conditions across Santa Clara County



Ripe Green Doctors



Queen of the Night harvest



All three tomato varieties



Unripe Sart Roloise grown in a container

Compiled by Lauren von Aspen and Lucy Diekmann, March 2026
Photos from Karen Schoffer and SeedLinked users