

# 2023 Tomato Varieties

Annual Spring Plant Sale – UCCE Master Gardeners of Yolo County  
Woodland Community College

Many of the varieties of tomatoes below have been grown for several years by local Master Gardeners. The variety description is taken from seed catalogs. The “Yolo County” comments are based on our experience growing them, and taste tests at the Woodland Farmers Market.

\* New this year

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
<b>African Queen</b>	Large potato-leaf plants produce heavy crops of 1-2 lb., 3-5”, jade-pink lightly fluted beefsteak tomatoes with red flesh and rich flavor. Grows well in heat. Yolo County: Great flavor, good producer. Heirloom from North Carolina.	Indet. Pink XL beefsteak	Late
* <b>Beam’s Yellow Pear</b>	Cute yellow pear-shape tomatoes are 1.5” long. Crispy flesh with a spicy sweet taste. Taste-test winner in a Seed Savers trial of 25 yellow pear varieties. Heirloom from Indiana.	Indet. Yellow Minipear	Mid
* <b>Benevento F1</b>	Vigorous hybrid vines produce beautiful medium-large yellow-striped red fruit with heirloom flavor and long shelf life. Deep watermelon-pink interior. Long ripening window. A favorite slicer, salad, and sauce tomato of Bay Area chefs. Bred by Fred Hempel, Artisan Seeds. Yolo County: Productive, tasty, and disease resistant.	Indet. Red w/ yellow stripes Beefsteak	Mid
<b>Black Krim</b>	Ukrainian heirloom with intense flavor. Purple/black 8-16 oz. fruits with green shoulders, slightly flattened. Harvest this delicate heirloom tomato at first blush. At half green and still firm they are already dead ripe and perfectly delicious. If you wait till they are fully purple, you will not be able to get them from garden to table intact. Also a richly flavored cooked tomato. Yolo County: Good producer, scores high in taste tests, MG favorite.	Indet. Purple/black Beefsteak	Mid- Late
<b>Black Plum</b>	Deep mahogany-brown thin-walled 1 oz. plum tomato for snacking, drying, or sauce. Sweet, tangy, full-bodied flavor. Russian heirloom. Yolo County: Good flavor, produces steadily all season.	Indet. Black Small plum	Mid
* <b>Brad’s Atomic Grape</b>	Elongated large grape or small plum, 1-2 oz. Lavender and purple stripes, turning to olive-green, red, and brown/blue stripes when fully ripe. Olive green interior is blushed with red when ripe. Crack-resistant and sweet! Fruit holds well on the vine and off. Wispy foliage. This Wild Boar Farms variety won best in show at the 2017 National Heirloom Expo.	Indet. Striped Lg grape	Mid
<b>Carmello F1 VFNT</b>	A classic French slicing tomato. Rich, balanced tomato flavor for salads and sauces. Heavy producer of medium-size disease-resistant 10-12 oz. red fruit. (Last year, we also offered the hybrid. Some years ago, we offered the dehybridized open-pollinated variety called Carmello OP.)	Indet. Red Medium	Mid
<b>Cherokee Green</b>	Unique color, great flavor. Medium size, 6-12 oz. green fruits turn yellowish-orange on the blossom end when ripe. Lime green and chartreuse flesh is meaty and has bold, acidic, complex tomato flavor. This is an outstanding color mutation from Cherokee Purple.	Indet. Green Medium	Mid

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
<b>*Cherokee Purple</b>	Famously rich flavor and texture. Medium-large flattened globe, 8-12 oz. fruits. Color is dusky purple-pink with dark shoulders. Relatively short vines. Heirloom from Tennessee. Yolo County: More disease resistant and reliable than many other heirlooms, with rich flavor and good production.	Indet. Purple-pink Beefsteak	Mid-Late
<b>Costoluto Genovese</b>	Heat-loving, meaty, heavily lobed 7 oz. red fruits. This heirloom is a standard in Italy for both fresh eating and preserving, and known for its slightly acid, intensely flavorful, deep red flesh. Good for sauce. Yolo County: Abundant producer.	Indet. Red Medium	Mid
<b>*Early Wonder [Pink]</b>	Early maturing and compact variety yields an abundant crop of round, dark pink, 4-6 oz. fruit. Smooth flesh with excellent balance of sweet and tart. Larger and tastier than most other early varieties. A good choice for container gardening and to ensure early and late crops. Pink variant of a red California heirloom. Yolo County: Productive when planted ASAP so it can bear fruit before the heat waves.	Det. Pink Medium	Early
<b>*Flaming Burst</b>	Golden orange 1 oz. pear-shape cherry tomato. Sweet and tangy with a firm texture. High-yielding plants are short indeterminates that grow 4' tall. Bred by Tom Wagner, selected from a cross with Jaune Flamme.	Indet. Golden orange Minipear	Mid
<b>*Geranium Kiss</b>	Good container variety. Stocky plants, 1.5-4' high, produce large cherry to salad-size red tomatoes with a point on the tip. Late-blight resistant. Rugose foliage. Bred by Alan Kapuler, Peace Seeds. Yolo County: Multiflora variety gets loaded with fruit on a compact plant.	Dwarf indet. Red Lg cherry	Early
<b>*Girl Girl's Weird Thing</b>	A mutation of Green Zebra originally found in a Canadian garden and named after the gardener's dog, Girl Girl. Gorgeous, dark red olive-skinned fruit with red/pink striping, 8-16 oz. The flesh is reddish-purple with complex, balanced, intense sweet and mild flavor. Perfect for sandwiches, slicing, and platters.	Indet. Red w/green stripes Beefsteak	Mid-Late
<b>*Green Gables</b>	Potato-leaf compact indeterminate plants produce sweet, fruity 5-10 oz. green-when-ripe tomatoes. Yolo County: Reliable producer of medium-size tomatoes.	Indet. Green Medium	Early-Mid
<b>*Green Tiger</b>	Super-sweet snacking tomato! Green striped with yellow, with a lime-green interior. Julienne tomatoes look like small elongated plums, about 2" long, 1" wide, and tapered at the tip. Bright and acidic yet sweet flavor. The taste is similar to that of Green Zebra, refreshing and delicious. Wispy foliage. Bred by Fred Hempel, Artisan Seeds.	Indet. Green w/ yellow stripes Julienne	Mid
<b>Hawaiian Pineapple</b>	Large 16-24 oz. golden orange beefsteak with scarlet blush. Fruity and sweet flavor with hints of pineapple. Very late, producing ripe fruit about 93 days after transplanting. Heirloom from Indiana. Yolo County: Scores high in taste and appearance.	Indet. Golden Orange XL beefsteak	Late
<b>*Indigo Cherry Drops</b>	Round 1" fruits have dark purple shoulders with rosy undersides and deep red flesh, 1-2 oz. Excellent sweet flavor and huge yields. Good leaf cover to prevent sun scald. Bred by Dr. Jim Myers at Oregon State University. Yolo County: Nonstop producer of tasty cherries.	Indet. Red Cherry	Early-Mid

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<b>*Indigo Pear Drops</b>	Vast clusters of pear-shape yellow to sunny-orange 1" fruits with dark purple shoulders. The flavor is delicately sweet, balanced with great tomato taste. Bred by Dr. Jim Myers at Oregon State University.	Indet. Orange Minipear	Early
<b>*Japanese Black Trifele</b>	Unusual pear shape and burgundy color. Good yields of 4–6 oz. fruit with excellent, rich flavor. Harvest when shoulders are still green for best flavor. Potato-leaf plants. Russian commercial variety. Tolerates drought and heat.	Indet. Black Pear	Mid-Late
<b>Legend</b>	Good for containers. Short, bushy plants produce large glossy round red 4–5" parthenocarpic fruit, 8-16 oz.. Bred by Dr. James Baggett, Oregon State University. Great for salads and canning. Yolo County: Must-have for many master gardeners.	Det. Red Medium	Early
<b>*Maglia Rosa</b>	Beautiful 1-3 oz. egg-shape cherry tomato that got its name from the mottled pink jersey worn by the lead racer in the Tour of Italy. Highly productive semideterminate variety, 2-3' high, does very well in pots and small spaces. For peak flavor, pick tomatoes just as they transition to light pink, even with hints of green. Wispy foliage. Bred by Fred Hempel, Artisan Seeds.	Semidet. Pink w/ stripes Lg cherry	Early
<b>*Orange King</b>	One of the best producers of early 4-6 oz. meaty orange globes. Blemish free and durable fruit with sweet, fruity flavor. There are other varieties with the same name, but this Orange King was bred by Tim Peters of Peters Seed and Research in Oregon. Good for containers.	Det. Orange Medium	Early
<b>*Ozark Pink</b>	Flattened pink globes, uniform shape with few defects, 4-8 oz. Productive with good shelf life. Similar to Arkansas Traveler but earlier. Mildly sweet main-crop variety. Bred by Joe McFerran at the University of Arkansas to withstand stresses from heat and disease.	Indet. Pink Medium	Early-Mid
<b>Pink Berkeley Tie Dye</b>	Heavy producer of dark pink/purple fruit with metallic green stripes, 8-12 oz. Very meaty with excellent sweet, rich dark-tomato flavor. Bred by Wild Boar Farms. Good disease tolerance, keeps well. Yolo County: Favorite for master gardeners' own gardens.	Indet. Pink/purple w/ green stripes Beefsteak	Early-Mid
<b>*Polaris</b>	Ripe fruits are deep burgundy in color with a velvety soft core, 7-10 oz. Vigorous and productive potato-leaf variety, relatively early compared to similar varieties. Taste is rich, complex, and sweet. Excellent texture that's perfect for sandwiches. Bred by Karen Olivier in British Columbia, Canada. Yolo County: A favorite for tomato sandwiches.	Indet. Purple Beefsteak	Mid
<b>Pork Chop</b>	Slightly flattened beefsteaks have a sweet flavor with a refreshing citrus component. The 8-12 oz. lemon-yellow tomatoes start off with thin green stripes that ripen to yellow and progress to a golden orange. From Wild Boar Farms. Yolo County: Longtime favorite of master gardeners.	Indet. Yellow Beefsteak	Mid
<b>*Prairie Fire</b>	Elongated plum or julienne tomato, 1" x 3", red with gold stripes, bred by Cream of the Crop. Brix of 10: intensely sweet! Compact vine, wispy foliage. Yolo County: Top scorer at the 2022 Woodland tomato tasting.	Indet. Red w/gold stripes Julienne	Early-Mid

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
<b>Rose</b>	Amish heirloom. Crack resistant, meaty, dusty-rose 10 oz. fruits. Luscious flavor — sweet, rich, and well-balanced — is considered by some to rival Brandywine. Plants are vigorous and strong with good leaf cover and disease resistance. Yolo County: Good producer, excellent flavor.	Indet. Pink Beefsteak	Mid
<b>*Rosella Cherry</b>	Rich-flavored half-inch dark-pink cherry with few seeds, ideal for snacking or sauce. The intriguing taste hints at a complex blend of raspberries, blackberries, and other summer fruits. Bred by Gourmet Genetics.	Indet. Dark pink Cherry	Mid
<b>*Rugby F1 VFF</b>	Heart-shape, firm, productive 7 oz. pink paste tomato with well-balanced flavor for fresh eating or canning. High-yielding plants have great foliage cover to protect fruits. Resistant to tomato mosaic virus, leaf mold, fusarium crown and root rot, and bacterial speck. Bred by Geosemselect in Bulgaria. Yolo County: Good production.	Indet. Pink Heart	Early- Mid
<b>*Striped German</b>	Yellow beefsteak with red stripes, 12 oz., variable shoulder ribbing. The marbled interior looks beautiful sliced. Meaty fruits have a complex tropical flavor and an excellent smooth texture. Heavy yielder. Earlier than Virginia Sweets or Big Rainbow. Heirloom probably from West Virginia.	Indet. Yellow w/red stripes Beefsteak	Mid
<b>*Valencia</b>	Round, smooth 8-10 oz. orange fruits with meaty interiors and few seeds, with gorgeous color. Low-acid and mild, but still sweet and flavorful. Vigorous plants display impressive disease resistance for an heirloom. Slow Food Ark of Taste variety. Heirloom from Maine.	Indet. Orange Beefsteak	Mid

### Explanation of Terms

**Early/Mid/Late** Produces ripe fruit an average of less than 70 days/ 70-80 days/ more than 80 days after transplanting, respectively.

**F1** F1 denotes hybrids, which are a cross between two or more plants. Seed saved from a hybrid variety or from cross-pollination will not always grow true to type.

**Open-pollinated** Seeds from open-pollinated (OP) varieties can be saved and used to reproduce the same tomato.

**Heirloom** An open-pollinated variety that has been passed down at least 50 years in a family or other group, or was commercially introduced before 1940.

**VFNT** These letters indicate that the particular tomato variety is resistant to Verticillium wilt, Fusarium wilt, Nematodes and Tobacco mosaic virus.

**Det.** Determinate: Short, bushy plants with terminal blossom clusters (meaning the top of the stem is usually flowers, not foliage). Most produce fruits in a short time span while others may produce all season. Usually 4' high or less and may not need staking, and often can be grown in containers.

**Indet.** Indeterminate: Long vines with subterminal blossom clusters (meaning flowers occur along the sides of the stem), usually produce well until frost. The plant grows continually until it dies at the end of the season. Plants can get quite large and most often produce best when staked or grown in a wire cage.

**Rugose foliage** Crinkly, wrinkled leaf texture, common in dwarf tomato varieties.

**Wispy foliage** Tomatoes with wispy foliage may seem droopy and sparse, but this graceful fernlike habit is normal for them. The leaves may be thinner than other varieties as well. Plant these varieties where they won't get the brunt of afternoon sun, especially if their fruit is not protected by enough leaf cover.

**Potato leaf** Potato-leaf tomato varieties have broader leaves without the lobes and serrations found on regular-leaf tomatoes.