

2024 Tomato Varieties

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

[Legend]

H Heirloom

C Container-friendly

TT Tried and True (grown successfully at least 2 out of the last 5 years by Yolo County master gardeners)

***** New this year

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

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
African Queen [H, TT]	Large potato-leaf plants produce heavy crops of 16-32 oz., 3-5”, jade-pink lightly fluted beefsteak tomatoes with red flesh and rich flavor. Grows well in heat. Heirloom from North Carolina. Yolo County: Great flavor, good producer.	Indet. Pink Lg beefsteak	Late
Arkansas Traveler [H, *]	Pink 6-8 oz. slicer with mild flavor and good disease resistance, drought tolerance, and heat tolerance. Our seed source says this is a pre-1900 heirloom from the Ozark Mountains. (Other sources say it was developed at the University of Arkansas and released in 1968.)	Indet. Pink Medium	Mid-Late
Beefy Red [*]	Juicy, meaty 12-14 oz. slicers, brick red with pale yellow/green stripes and bright red interior. High yields and good shelf life. Brand-new 2024 introduction bred by Cream of the Crop.	Indet. Red striped Beefsteak	Early-Mid
Belmonte Pear [*]	Classic red Italian piriform (pear shape) tomato. Highly regarded for sauces and roasting, these beautiful, 6-10 oz fruits are earlier than other piriforms. Adaptive Seeds sourced the original seed from a U.S. seed company that received it from a friend who got it from an Italian seed company. May originate from an oxheart/ Marmande cross.	Indet. Red Piriform paste	Mid
Benevento F1 [TT]	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, Bene Seeds. Yolo County: Productive, tasty, and disease resistant.	Indet. Red striped Beefsteak	Mid
Bo Mango [*]	Tropical fruity flavors of mango and citrus. Large and juicy green beefsteak, with a firm texture. Top scorer in a 2023 San Diego taste test. Bred by UC Davis and Organic Seed Alliance by crossing classic heirlooms with productive commercial varieties to optimize flavor, production, and disease resistance.	Indet. Green Beefsteak	Mid
California Sungold [*]	Sweet, fruity, vigorous, high-yielding, open-pollinated golden cherry that is resistant to blossom end rot and cracking. For years, growers have been trying to dehybridize Sungold F1. Steve Peters and Kanti Rawal of Seed rEvolution Now took a different approach: they made new crosses and distributed seeds to organic growers all over California. Each year, seeds from the tastiest and most productive plants were saved. This collaborative effort has resulted in a tomato with excellent flavor, ease of cultivation, compact size, keeping qualities, and yield.	Indet. Golden orange Cherry	Early-Mid

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
Cherokee Purple [H, TT]	Famously rich flavor and texture. Medium-large flattened globe, 8-12 oz. fruits. Color is dusky purple-pink with dark shoulders. Relatively short vines, 5-6'. 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
Cherry Falls [C, *]	Bright red 1.5" cherry tomatoes have pleasantly sweet flavor. Compact productive plants are great in containers or cascading from hanging baskets. Our seed source says it's open-pollinated; other seed sources label it a hybrid. Originally bred by Floranova/Vegetalis.	Det. Red Cherry	Early
Flaming Burst [C]	Golden 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. Yolo County: Incredibly prolific with excellent shelf life.	Compact indet. Golden Cherry	Early
Girl Girl's Weird Thing	Gorgeous, dark red and olive-skinned fruit with red/pink striping, 8-16 oz. Reddish-purple interior with complex, balanced, intense sweet and mild flavor. Perfect for sandwiches and slicing. A mutation of Green Zebra originally found in a Canadian garden and named after the gardener's dog, Girl Girl. Yolo County: A top performer!	Indet. Red w/ green stripes Beefsteak	Mid- Late
Green Bee F1 [TT, *]	A favorite of Bay Area chefs for its tangy flavor, firm texture, and extraordinary shelf life (weeks, not days). Ideal for grilling and roasting because it stays firm even when cooked; also great for pickling, gazpacho, salsa fresca. Fruit can hold a long time on the vine without cracking or softening. Best picked when the skin develops a clear yellow-orange hue. Bred by Fred Hempel, Bene Seeds. Yolo County: Good flavor, prolific, unique crispy-ripe texture makes it fun to eat.	Indet. Green Cherry	Mid
Green Tiger	Super-sweet snacking tomato! Green striped with yellow, with a lime-green interior. Thin, elongated plum/grape, about 2" long, 1" wide, and tapered at the tip. Bright and acidic yet sweet flavor, refreshing and delicious. Wispy foliage. Bred by Fred Hempel, Bene Seeds. Yolo County: Almost like candy, they were so delicious!	Indet. Green striped Elongated grape	Mid
Hawaiian Pineapple [H, TT]	Large 16-24 oz. golden yellow to orange beefsteak with scarlet blush. Fruity, 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 Lg.beefsteak	Late
Indigo Cherry Drops	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	Mid
Janet's Jacinthe Jewel [*]	Large 16 oz. bright orange striped beefsteak. Sweet with some fruity notes. Good production. Bred by Brad Gates, Wild Boar Farms. Yolo County: Scored high in 2023 Woodland tomato tasting.	Indet. Orange striped Beefsteak	Late
Kellogg's Breakfast [H, *]	Large productive orange beefsteak, 16-24 oz. Delicious rich flavor with a well-balanced flavor profile; a perfect trifecta of sweet, fruity, and acidic. An heirloom from West Virginia preserved and named by Michigan gardener Darrell Kellogg.	Indet. Orange Lg.beefsteak	Late
Legend [TT, C]	Good for containers. Short, bushy plants produce large glossy round red 4-5" parthenocarpic fruit, 8-16 oz. Great for salads and canning. Resistant to late blight. Bred by Dr. James Baggett, Oregon State University. Yolo County: Must-have for many master gardeners.	Det. Red Medium/ large	Early

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
Magic Bullet [*]	Productive plum-shape small cherry tomato with sweet and deliciously complex flavor. Green, yellow, and pink with streaks of dark indigo on the shoulders. A good snacking tomato, excellent fresh or roasted. Resistant to blossom end rot and cracking. Bred by Steve Peters and Kanti Rawal, Seed rEvolution Now.	Indet. Multi Plum-shape cherry	Early
Maglia Rosa [C]	Beautiful 1-3 oz. egg-shape cherry/saladette tomato that got its name from the mottled pink jersey worn by the lead racer in the Tour of Italy. Bushy 2-3' high plants do 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. Top pick at University of Florida's variety trials. Bred by Fred Hempel, Bene Seeds. Yolo County: Sweet taste, moderate production.	Semidet. Pink Large cherry/ saladette	Early- Mid
Pink Berkeley Tie Dye [TT]	Heavy producer of dark pink/purple fruit with metallic green stripes, 8-12 oz. Very meaty with excellent sweet, rich dark-tomato flavor. Good disease tolerance, keeps well. Bred by Brad Gates, Wild Boar Farms. Yolo County: Longtime favorite.	Indet. Pink/purple striped Beefsteak	Early- Mid
Pink Champagne [*]	Dark pink, >1" long grape-shape, <1 oz. fruits with an amazingly sweet flavor, 9.5 Brix. Fruits are borne on moderately long trusses. Plants are more manageable (less vining) than other cherry varieties. Bred by Cream of the Crop.	Indet. Pink Grape/cherry	Early
Polaris [TT]	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. Bred by Karen Olivier in British Columbia, Canada. Yolo County: Excellent texture, a favorite for tomato sandwiches.	Indet. Purple Beefsteak	Mid
Prairie Fire [C]	Elongated grape tomato, 1" x 3", red with subtle gold stripes. Brix of 10: intensely sweet! Top choice for snacking in the garden. Compact vine, wispy foliage. Bred by Cream of the Crop. Yolo County: Top scorer at 2022 Woodland tomato tasting. Extremely productive and incredibly sweet.	Semidet. Red, striped Elongated grape	Early
Pruden's Purple [H, *]	Exceptionally early for a large tomato, averaging 16 oz. Vivid dark-pink skin with crimson flesh and rich, delicious flavor. Large, smooth fruits with some shoulder ribbing resist cracking. Medium-tall potato-leaf plants. Pre-1900 heirloom.	Indet. Pink Beefsteak	Early- mid
Raspberry Lyanna [C, *]	Small to medium size raspberry-pink fruit, very sweet and rich. Fruits are uniform and productive, 3-8 oz. Plants stay 3-5' high and can be planted in containers. Originally from Russia (possibly heirloom).	Semidet. Pink Small/ medium	Mid
Rosella Cherry	Rich-flavored half-inch dark-pink cherry with few seeds, ideal for snacking. The intriguing taste hints at a complex blend of raspberries, blackberries, and other summer fruits. Bred by Mark Rowland, Gourmet Genetics. Yolo County: Nonstop production of delicious snacking cherries.	Indet. Dark pink Cherry	Mid
Rugby F1 VFF	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: Terrific producer, especially good for cooking.	Indet. Pink Paste	Early- Mid
Sunrise Bumble Bee [*]	A beautiful yellow cherry with red stripes and pink marbling inside, >1" round. Excellent sweet and tangy flavor. Productive, crack resistant, and keeps well. Like all the Artisan tomatoes, it was bred for high vigor to perform under tough conditions. Bred by Fred Hempel, Bene Seeds.	Indet. Yellow striped Cherry	Mid

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
Sweet Aperitif [*]	Bright red fruits have exceptional flavor and very high levels of sugar (up to a Brix of 13), perfectly balanced with the right amount of acid to give it a complex, wine-like taste and tropical aroma. Plants are completely covered with bite-size, one-half oz. fruits. Bred by Mark Rowland, Gourmet Genetics.	Indet. Red Cherry	Mid
Taste Patio [C, *]	Compact, bushy, productive plants do well in containers. Egg-shape 2" pink fruits with prominent yellow stripes have rich, sweet flavor. Good disease resistance. Bred by Fred Hempel, Bene Seeds.	Det. Pink striped Saladette	Early
Taxi [C, *]	Sweet and mild, bright-yellow 4-6 oz. round fruits that almost seem acid-free. Compact, bushy plants yield abundantly early in the season. Produces heavily for a short time. Excellent for containers. Origin unknown, possibly heirloom.	Det. Yellow Small/ medium	Early
Tommy Toe [H, *]	Exceptionally vigorous and productive plants have high tolerance for heat stress and good disease resistance. The superb flavor of this 1 oz. red cherry tomato won it first place over a hundred other varieties in an Australian taste test. Early-1900s heirloom from the Ozark mountains. Yolo County: Good flavor at any stage of ripeness. A small tomato with big-tomato flavor.	Indet. Red Cherry	Mid
Woodle Orange [H, TT, *]	Tangerine-orange 10-16 oz. tomato with rich, complex flavor. Perfectly round shape and blemish-free. Heirloom from Iowa. Yolo County: Amazing flavor, heavy producer, big plant, handles heat well.	Indet. Orange Beefsteak	Mid- Late

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 reliably grow true to type.

Open-pollinated Seeds from open-pollinated (OP) varieties breed true, so they 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.

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.

Semidet. Semideterminate: Some seed sellers prefer the term "compact indeterminate." Plants usually stay under 5' high and may be suitable for containers, though they may get bushy. They generally produce throughout the season.

Brix A measure of sweetness. Brix of 1 is 1 gram of dissolved solids, mostly sugars, per 100 grams. Most tomatoes measure 5-12 Brix; maple syrup is 68. Sungold F1 tomatoes typically measure 9.5; grocery store tomatoes, 4-5. Exact rating from a particular garden depends on growing conditions.

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

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.