



2018

# Tomato Varieties

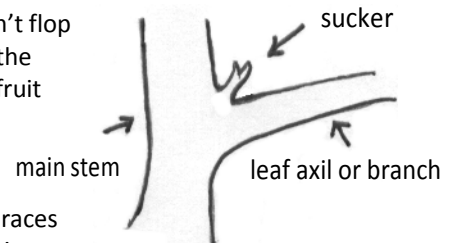
## General Culture

All tomatoes require at least **six hours of direct sunlight a day** for best fruit set. Set out transplants or direct sow seeds in the garden after danger of frost is past (in our area, after April 15th) and preferably on a cloudy, wind-free day. Tomatoes perform better and have fewer disease problems when air circulation is good, so **space plants at least 2 feet apart**. Using stakes or tomato cages will save space in the garden, increase yields, and make it easier to harvest the fruits. If you are planting in clay soil, **amend the garden beds** with pine bark soil conditioner and compost or aged manure by layering 2-3 inches of soil conditioner and 1-2 inches of compost/aged manure over the top of the planting area and tilling to 6-8 inches. Alternatively, **raised beds** will allow you complete control over the soil quality and these should be filled with quality topsoil/compost blends or bagged soils. When planting incorporate recommended amounts of **organic fertilizer such as Tomato-tone™**. After planting, mulch over the area to protect root zones, conserve water, and help prevent soil-borne disease. **Feed plants regularly** side dressing with fertilizer 4-6 inches from the plant's stem after the plants have started to set fruit and every 4-6 weeks thereafter throughout the season. If we receive less than one inch of rain in a week, water the plants thoroughly making sure to soak the root zone. **Avoid watering the foliage** when irrigating. A soaker hose or drip irrigation system works well and helps prevent foliar diseases. If your plants have dark brown, flattened areas at the base of the fruit, your soil is either lacking calcium or is receiving uneven watering. This is a condition called "blossom end rot" and can be avoided by taking care to water regularly, when needed, and by adding gypsum to the soil when planting. Once blossom end rot is present, spray plants with Rot-Stop™ and monitor soil moisture. While you don't want the soil to be wet all the time, don't let it dry out too much between waterings.

**Tomatoes are divided into two basic categories: determinate and indeterminate.** Determinate vines will grow to a pre-determined size and produce fruits over a 3-4 week period when mature (a benefit for those who like to can at home or make lots of sauce). They tend to take up less space in the garden and generally do not require staking. Instead, they are better grown in tomato cages.

Indeterminate vines will continue to grow and produce fruit throughout the season and size can be quite large, though variable. These vines will need support from stakes or cages so they don't flop over and ramble. Gardeners should also pinch out stems called "**suckers**" that arise between the main stem and leaf axils of indeterminate vines. This will direct more of the plant's energy to fruit producing and less to foliage. See the illustration at the right for clarification.

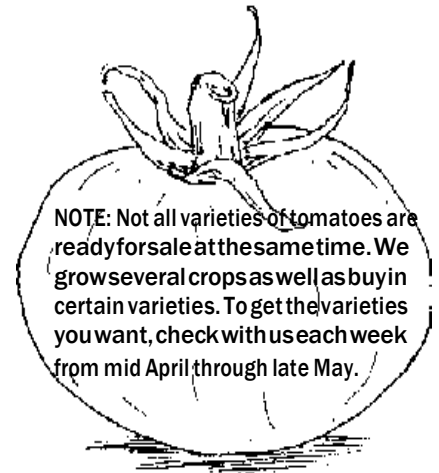
**Disease resistance is usually indicated by the letters V, F, FF, FFF, N, A, T, St** or some combination thereof. "**V**" means resistant to verticillium wilt, "**F**" means resistant to fusarium wilt, "**FF**" means resistant to fusarium wilt races 1 & 2, "**FFF**" means resistant to fusarium wilt races 1, 2, & 3, and "**N**" means resistance to root-knot nematodes. "**A**" = Alternaria Stem Canker resistance, "**St**" = Stemphylium Gray Leaf Spot resistance, and "**T**" = Tobacco Mosaic Virus resistance. "**L**" = Septoria Leaf Spot. Gardeners may wonder about the label "**F1**" seen on plant tags. This means that the plant is a first generation hybrid and has all of the preferred characteristics of the hybrid. Later generations can have genetic variability and may not retain all of the desired features of the parent plants. This is why most gardeners do not save seeds of hybrid tomatoes to re-plant.

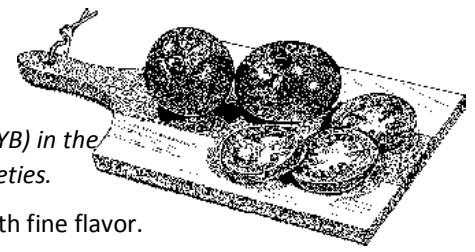


What is an heirloom tomato? Heirlooms have been classified down into four categories:

1. **Commercial Heirlooms:** Open-pollinated varieties introduced before 1940, or tomato varieties more than 50 years in circulation.
2. **Family Heirlooms:** Seeds that have been passed down for several generations through a family.
3. **Created Heirlooms:** Crossing two known parents (either two heirlooms or an heirloom and a hybrid) and dehybridizing the resulting seeds for however many years/generations it takes to eliminate the undesirable characteristics and stabilize the desired characteristics, perhaps as many as 8 years or more.
4. **Mystery Heirlooms:** Varieties that are a product of natural cross-pollination of other heirloom varieties.

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(Note: All heirloom varieties are open-pollinated but not all open-pollinated varieties are heirloom varieties.)





**Hybrid Tomatoes** - *most of these varieties are modern hybrids and are denoted by (HYB) in the description. Those without (HYB) are open-pollinated but relatively modern, non-heirloom varieties.*

**Beefmaster** (HYB) - Meaty, easy slicing tomatoes great for topping burgers. Nearly seedless with fine flavor.

Very productive and disease resistant with large fruits up to 2 lbs. Indeterminate. 80 days. FNASt

**Better Boy** (HYB) - Large, tasty fruits up to 1 lb. each! Excellent disease resistance. Indeterminate. 72 days.

**Big Beef** (HYB) - Large red fruits up to 10-12 oz. each are firm, juicy, and very flavorful. Disease-resistant

heavy yielder is an All-America Winner. Indeterminate. Long harvest season. 73 days. VFNTASTL

**Big Boy** (HYB) - One of the most popular tomatoes. Sweet, fragrant, smooth-skinned fruits are large weighing up to a pound or more. Indeterminate with a bush-like habit are strong growers and have good disease resistance. 78 days.

**Celebrity** (HYB) - All-purpose variety with excellent flavor, great disease resistance, and heavy yields. This All-America Winner is crack-resistant and fruits average about 7 oz. Will require staking in a container. Determinate. 70 days. VFNTAST

**Chocolate Cherry** - Extremely flavorful black cherry tomato produced on trusses of up to 8 fruits. Fruits hold the stems well and can be picked several days before completely mature and allowed to ripen off the vine without sacrificing quality. Great for home gardener and market gardener alike. Indeterminate. 70 days.

**Early Girl** (HYB) - An early producer bearing heavy crops of bright red, meaty fruits, continuing longer than many others. Large clusters of 5 oz. fruits with plenty of flavor and aroma. Indeterminate. 59 days. VF

**Grape mini charm** - Early maturing, produces high yields of ¼ to ½ oz bright red cherry tomatoes. They are very sweet and flavorful. It has high sugar content and special flavor. Perfect for salads and snacks. Grown in clusters of 20 to 60. It has good shelf life. Suitable for hydroponics gardening. Indeterminate. 65 days. V, FF, TMV.

**Juliet** (HYB) - Abundantly produces super sweet grape-like tomatoes all-season. This All-America winner is crack-resistant unlike many other grape tomatoes and has superb flavor. Indeterminate. 60 days.

**La Roma III** (HYB) - Italian paste tomato excellent for canning, paste, and sauces. Firm meaty texture with very few seeds and heavy yields of 3-4 oz. plum-shaped fruits. Will require staking in a container. Determinate. 62 days.

**Lemon Boy** (HYB) - Bright lemon-yellow fruits are meaty with great tangy flavor. This tomato beat out other yellow tomatoes for flavor and yield in trials. Good disease resistance. Indeterminate. 72 days. VFNASt

**Marglobe** - Produces a large crop of perfectly round, smooth tomatoes with solid flesh, about 6-8 oz. each. Crack-resistant and great for canning. Determinate. 75 days. VF

**Mountain fresh Plus** - (HYB) Developed by North Carolina State University, you'll love this easy-care, heavy-bearing midseason beauty, and you'll really appreciate how vigorous and healthy it remains throughout the growing season. Resistant to verticillium wilt and fusarium wilt. The fruit is crack-resistant, and the plant is tolerant of root knot nematodes. Determinate. 79 days to maturity. F1

**Parks Whopper** (HYB) An early producer of big, juicy, meaty, crack-resistant fruits. Improved hybrid for greater disease resistance, bigger yields, longer season, and better taste. 65 days. FFNT

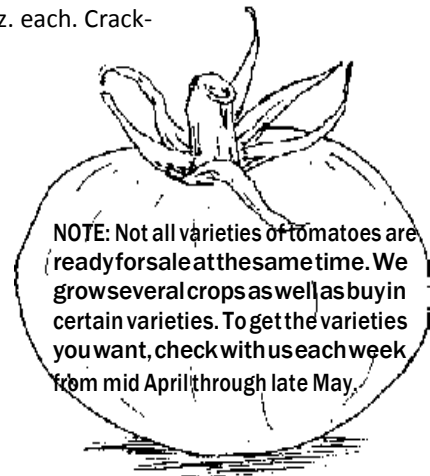
**Patio** (HYB) - Medium-sized red fruits on compact bushy plants are great for growing in containers where space is limited. Resistant to fusarium wilt. Determinate. Matures in 69-80 days. VASt

**Pink Girl** (HYB) - Juicy pink tomatoes averaging 6-8 oz. Mild, with good flavor and crack resistance. Vigorous grower, disease resistant, and heavy producer. Indeterminate. 76 days. VFASt

**Red Cherry** - This dependable, full-flavored salad tomato is a vigorous grower and can often outgrow diseases. 72 days.

**San Marzano** - A well-known open-pollinated Roma-style sauce or paste tomato. Clusters of bright red, oblong fruits hold well on the vine and in storage. Solid, meaty fruit perfect for canning. Indeterminate. 80 days.

**Sun Gold** (HYB) - Clusters of yellow cherry tomatoes with very sweet/tart flavor and is great for snacks and salads. A very popular variety. Will require staking in a container. Indeterminate. 65 days.



▼ = good for growing in containers

**Sun Sugar** (HYB) - A bright gold to orange cherry tomato with a very sweet-tart flavor. Vigorous, disease-resistant, early cropper, with good crack resistance, and great production. Indeterminate. 62 days. FT

**Super Fantastic** (HYB) - Large, meaty 10 oz. fruits on heavy yielding vines. Produces all season and does well in most regions. Indeterminate. 70 days. VF

**Supersteak** (HYB) - One of the original "giant" tomatoes with rich beefsteak taste and meaty texture. Disease resistant. Fruits weigh 16 oz and up! Indeterminate. 80 days. VFN

**Super Sweet 100** (HYB) - Long clusters of deliciously sweet cherry tomatoes. Sweeter than the famous 'Sweet 100'. Indeterminate. 70 days.

## Heirloom Tomatoes

**Amish Paste** - An Amish heirloom discovered in the late 1800's in Wisconsin. Tear drop-shaped fruits are very meaty with few seeds making them very good for sauces and paste. Excellent, creamy mild flavor. Indeterminate. Matures in 75-82 days.

**Arkansas Traveler** - A 100 year old heirloom grown throughout the South. Produces 8 oz. pink, slicing tomatoes with good disease and crack resistance. Very rich and full in flavor with a good sweet/tart balance. Tolerates high heat, humidity, and drought. Indeterminate. 80-90 days.

**Black Cherry** - Prolific clusters of juicy, deep red-burgundy cherry tomatoes. Flavor is complex, rich, deep, and sweet. Indeterminate. 65 days.

**Black Krim** - One of the most prolific "black" tomatoes with a rich, earthy, almost smoky flavor that often makes it a major contender in taste tests. Large 10-14 oz. beefsteak-style fruits. Indeterminate. 75 days.

**Brandywine** (pink) - A very popular heirloom beefsteak tomato that dates back to the 1880's. It has a superb flavor that wins many taste tests. Very large fruit of up to 1 lb. each with unique pink-red color. Heavy producer even in heat. Indeterminate. 85 days.



**Cherokee Purple** - Considered by many to be one of the finest tasting tomatoes. Deep pink fruits with purple shoulders. Large fruits up to 12-16 oz. with deep, rich, sweet tomato flavor. Indeterminate. 75-80 days.

**German Johnson** - A popular heirloom from Virginia and North Carolina. Large, dark-pink 1-2 lb. fruits are very flavorful and almost crack-free. Very productive bearing excellent quality, delicious fruits. 80-90 days.

**Goliath** - Appropriately named, this variety does bear giant fruit on a really huge plant. Dark pink, solid tomatoes are ribbed, have few seeds, and are very sweet yet have an acid component, making for really good flavor. Most fruit is in the 1 to 2 lb. range, but it is not unusual for tomatoes to become a mammoth 3 lbs. Heirloom variety since the late 1800's. Indeterminate. 85 day.

**Great White** - A magnificent, almost perfect, "white" tomato with low acidity and few seeds. Good drought and crack tolerance. Fruits are protected under vigorous, heavy foliage. Indeterminate. 80 days.

**Homestead** - Heat tolerant tomato good for our climate with good yields of firm, meaty, uniform fruits in the 6-8 oz. range. Good for salads, sandwiches, and canning. Determinate. 80 days. FA

**Mexico Midget** - Produces hundreds of tiny currant-type tomatoes each with serious tomato flavor, tart and juicy. An early, reliable, and prolific producer that continues through a long season. Indeterminate. 60-70 days.

**Mortgage Lifter** - A huge tomato weighing up to 4 lbs. each! The average fruit is about 2.5 lbs. and is meaty with few seeds. A consistent taste-test winner, this variety dates back to the 1930's and was bred by a farmer during the Great Depression who paid off his mortgage in six years by selling the plants for \$1 apiece. Indeterminate. 80 days.

**Mr. Stripey** - A beautiful large beefsteak type that is golden yellow blended with bright red inside and out. Smooth, meaty flesh and very sweet flavor. Indeterminate. 80 days.

**Rutgers** - Vigorous grower that does well in humid conditions. Medium-sized fruits are firm, crack-resistant, and have low acidity and excellent flavor for both slicing and cooking. Determinate. Matures in 74 days. VFAST

**Yellow Pear** - A beautiful pear shaped mini-tomato with yellow skin. Sweet and mellow flavor and a heavy producer. Indeterminate. 75 days.



NOTE: Not all varieties of tomatoes are ready for sale at the same time. We grow several crops as well as buy in certain varieties. To get the varieties you want, check with us each week from mid April through late May.