

2019 Tomatoes for MG Plant Sale

Classifications

Tomatoes are classified in a number of different ways, including fruit shape, color, size, growth habit, provenance, and flavor.

Shape

From smallest to largest, popular fruit shapes are identified as grape, cherry, plum, standard, and beefsteak.

Color

Fruit colors can range from creamy white, through green, to pink, yellow, golden, orange, red, deep purple, or a mix.

Growth Habit

Tomato varieties are generally classified as **determinate** or **indeterminate**. Determinate tomatoes are relatively compact, and reach a predetermined height or number of fruit clusters. They tend to ripen all at once. They are easier to contain as their growth is less rampant, and they do not require pruning. Indeterminate tomatoes grow, blossom, and produce tomatoes throughout the growing season. They can get very tall, require more elaborate trellising methods, and more labor to sucker and prune. The higher leaf to fruit ratio tends to produce better flavor. Indeterminate varieties should be planted 2-3 feet apart.

Provenance

“Heirloom” tomatoes are varieties that have been reproduced for at least three generations. They’re true to type from their own seed (also called “open pollinated”). Pluses include stability, taste, and individuality (shape and color). Heirloom minuses are individuality (some gardeners object to the non-standard appearance and odd coloration), the tendency to take longer to mature, and sometimes, lower productivity. **“Hybrid”** tomatoes are a cross between two genetically different tomato varieties. Hybrid pluses include predictability, productivity, disease resistance, and consistent appearance. Minuses include seed instability, and in some cases, lack of flavor. **“Grafted”** tomatoes have different rootstock (bottom) and scion (top) varieties. Grafting is a centuries-old technique that often improves plant production, reduces disease susceptibility, and increases plant vigor. **“Dwarf”** tomato plants are a very new breeding initiative that uses open-pollinated heirloom varieties cross-pollinated and ‘selected’ for dwarfing characteristics, producing plants 2-5 feet in height.

Organic or Not

Farmers and gardeners sometimes have preferences for how their seeds are produced and for how they grow the plants from those seeds. Seed bred and produced organically may be more likely to thrive under organic growing conditions. Organic seed (**OG**) is also non-GMO. Conventionally grown seed crops are heavy users of synthetic agricultural chemicals.

Flavor and Texture

Flavor is a very personal preference. The balance of acids, sugars, and aromatics distinguishes the taste of one tomato from another. Yellow and orange tomatoes generally tend to have less acid and milder flavor than red, pink, black varieties. Some people prefer the softer texture associated with heirlooms, while others like the firmer texture associated with hybrid types. Try several varieties to decide your personal favorites.

Tomato Advice

“Harden off” your seedlings before planting out. Gradually acclimate the plant to the real world by placing outside in a protected place for gradually increasing lengths of time (3 hours, 5 hours, etc.) during the day for at least four days. Then leave it outside during the night for another few days. Tomatoes need nighttime temperatures above 50 degrees in order to set fruit. Plant out into medium-rich garden soil. Plenty of phosphorus is important but avoid too much nitrogen, which can lead to rampant leaf growth and fewer, softer fruits. Be sure to support indeterminate varieties and plant them 2-3 feet apart. Plant deeply or trench plant (**unless grafted—plant above graft**) clipping bottom leaves. Water deeply and keep soil consistently moist.

Variety Name	Size; DTM	Type; Shape	Color	Growth Habit	OG	Standout Characteristics
Brad's atomic Grape	1 1/2" ; 75	Grape clusters	Red, lavender, yellow	Ind.		Prolific, interesting colors
Sungold Cherry	1 1/4"; 65	Cherry, round	Apricot-orange	Ind.		Fruity, tropical, sweet globes borne on long trusses.
Sweetie	1 oz. 68	Cherry, round	Red	Ind.		Eat out of hand
Roma	2 oz.; 76	Paste; oval pear	Red	Det.		Used for both canning and paste.
Sunsugar Cherry	1 1/2 oz.; 62	Cherry, round	Yellow,orange	Ind.		Hybrid; 62 days; very sweet; thin skin
Black Beauty	2-3 oz.; 70	Small; round	Blue-black	Ind.	X	May be the blackest tomato-- full of antioxidants. Deep red flesh is rich, smooth, earthy.
Black vernissage	2-4 oz.; 65	Midsize; round	dark red	Ind.	X	Prolific, thick-skinned, slicer or salads.
Zolotoye	5.5 oz.; 62	Mid-size	Golden-yellow	Det.		Smooth skin hybrid. Russian, bush.
Purple Russian	5-7 oz.; 75	Midsize, elongate	Red purple	Ind.		Ukrainian heirloom, meaty, mild., prolific
Early Red Chief	10oz.; 68	Midsize, lobed	red	Det.		Bushy; prolific, good fresh or in sauce.
Amish Gold Slicer	4-6 oz.; 80	Mid-size, round	yellow	Ind.		Sandwiches, salads, great taste
Fioletovyy	5-6 oz.; 110-120	midsize	purple	Ind.		Intense taste, high yield, deep color; Ukraine heirloom
Big Mama	8-10 oz.; 80	Mid-size. plumb	red	Ind.		Paste tomato, very meaty
Brandywine	14 oz.; 85	Round; large	Pink-red	Ind.		Heirloom; late ripening, sweet beefsteak, potato leaf
Japanese Trifele Black	4-5 oz.; 60	Medium; round	Dark red	Ind.	X	One of the best Russian black tomatoes. High yielding, blemish-free, potato-leafed.
Sunrise Sauce	4-6 oz./; 57	Midsize; Roma shape	Deep yellow	Det.		Excellent patio tomato; sauce that cooks down quickly, fruity taste.
Celebrity	7-8 oz.; 72	Midsize; round	Red	Det.		Flavorful and firm; ripen midseason; vigorous AAS winner.
Valley Girl	7-8 oz.; 65	Midsize; round	Red	Det.		Productive, flavorful; matures early; sets fruit under temperature stress.
Paul Robeson	7-10 oz.; 80-90	Midsize; roundish	Brick red, green shoulders red flesh	Ind.	X	Distinctive sweet and smoky flavor. Loved by tomato connoisseurs.
Pink Berkeley Tie-Dye	8-12; 65-75	Midsize; round	Rosy with green and yellow	Ind.	X	Blend of sweet, spice, and acid. Fascinating streaked interior.

Variety Name	Size; DTM	Type; Shape	Color	Growth Habit	OG	Standout Characteristics
Nebraska Wedding	10-12 oz.; 90	Midsized; round	Orange	Vig. Det.	X	From the Great Plains; beautiful with balanced acid-sweet flavor.
Black Krim	10-14 oz.; 80	Beefsteak; oblate	Dark maroon	Ind.	X	Heirloom from Crimea; wonderfully rich flavor.
Orlinoye Serttse	18 oz	Heart-shape	Pink-Red	Ind.		Russian heirloom, prolific growth, rich taste
Supersauce	12+ oz.; 70	Paste; oval-pear	Red	Ind.		Meaty and great for sauce, sandwiches, salad; VERY productive.
Cherokee Purple	16 oz.; 85	Beefsteak; oblate	Mahogany	Ind.	X	Originating with the Cherokee people, fruit has dense, juicy texture and rich, full flavor.
Beefsteak	16-32 oz.; 80	Beefsteak; round	Red	Ind.		Huge slicer; tasty and juicy.



Master Gardener Foundation

of Grant-Adams Counties
1525 E. Wheeler Rd., Moses Lake, WA 98837 509-754-2011 Ext 4313

The Master Gardener Foundation is a non-profit corporation that supports and promotes the WSU Grant-Adams Extension Master Gardener Program. The WSU Master Gardener Program provides public education in gardening and home horticulture based on unbiased, research-based information.

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact the Extension Office, 509-754-2011, at least one week prior to an event. Reference to commercial product(s), commercial entities, or trade names does not imply endorsement by WSU or bias against those not mentioned.