

RCW Nurseries, Inc.



Tomato Selection Guide



This list provides basic information about tomato varieties that we have carried over the past years. Some may no longer be available in plants but can still be grown from seed.

Arkansas Traveler (I) 85days An heirloom variety with 7oz pink fruit that is rough, creamy, mild flavored and low acid. Produces under most circumstances.

Beef Master VF (I) 80 days A beefsteak variety that produces up to 2 pound fruit that is juicy with a great taste. Will need staking.

Beefeater VFN (I) 60 days Large and extra early with improved disease resistance. Solid, meaty fruit averages two pounds or more.

Beefy Boy VFFTSt (ISI) 70 days 12 to 16 ounce meaty fruit bred for enhanced flavor. Although indeterminate, it is a more compact plant than one expects. Stake it to support the big yields.

Beefsteak (I) 96 days Delicious, ribbed fruit up to 2 pounds. Start early and stake this monster.

Better Bush, Improved VFFNT (ISI) 68 days Compact, stocky plants with 4-inch fruit that has a "real tomato" flavor. Juicy and meaty with a high sugar content. At 48 inches tall they need little staking, a small cage is all you need.

Better Boy VFN (I) 75 days Think Big Boy with more disease resistance. Bright red fruit up to 1 ½ pounds, great for slicing and tasty.

BHN444 VFFTSW (D) 75days 8 to 10 ounce fruit uniform ripening, globe shaped fruit on a medium sized plant. The first variety resistant to Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSW).

Big Beef VFFNASt (I) 73 days (1994 AAS) Old fashioned flavor, great yields, uniform and disease resistant, globe shaped fruit weighing 10 ounces to a pound. Does not get rough, cracked tops or fibrous like other large varieties.

Big Boy (I) 78 days One of the first hybrids ever developed. 12 to 16 ounce fruit are bright red and smooth. Good tasting and a great slicer, on a stocky plant that produces heavily. Very popular in this neck of the woods.

Bingo VFFTASSt (D) 70 days Dark red, globe shaped fruit similar to Carnival and Celebrity (page 2) but with less than consistent yields.

Black Krim (I) 69 days A novelty variety with almost black fruit inside and out. Green shoulders add to its unusual appearance. Sweet with an old fashioned flavor.

Box Car Willie (I) 80 days 5 to 10 ounce fruit of delicious smooth red tomatoes. Heavy yields over a long harvest.

Brandywine (I) 90 to 100 days An Amish heirloom that dates back to 1885 producing one of the best flavored tomato available. Vigorous vines with good yields on large, firm rose pink fruit up to 1½ pounds.

Carmello VFNT (I) 70 days A French hybrid that is one of the most productive tomatoes ever bred. Harvests up to 40 pounds off a single plant have been reported. Crack resistant, heavy juicy tomatoes have a high weight to size ratio and a flavor that have been reported as exquisite. Hard to locate, but well worth the effort.

Capaya VFNAscTSWG (D) 70 days Tapered Rome type that is firm and super disease resistant plants are under 4 feet tall

Carnival VFFNTASSt (S-D) 70 days Compact vines produce heavy crops of 12 to 14 ounce fruit. Deeply oblate fruit is thick walled and uniform in shape. A close cousin of Celebrity (page 2), but with larger fruit and earlier, heavier production. A best bet for the Houston area.



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Celebrity VFFNTASt (S-D) 70 days (1984 AAS) Large oblate fruit is firm and tasty. 10 to 12 ounce fruit arrive heavily even under adverse conditions. Our most popular tomato. Also available in bush form.

Champion VFNT (I) 68 days Especially bred as a hamburger tomato -- one slice will cover your hamburger bun. Does well here with large, solid meaty fruit. Heavy production up to 50 pounds per plant...your neighbors will love you.

Costoluto Genovese (I) 78 days An Italian heirloom with deep ridges and heavily lobed. Big, juicy multi-purpose tomatoes have been enjoyed for generations. Delicious fresh or cooked, these heat loving plants will bear heavy yields.

Crimson Fancy VFFASt (S-D) 75 days This sister of Celebrity was the first hybrid developed specifically "for the lazy or lousy gardener". It has a forgiving nature. 8 ounce fruit with a great disease resistance makes for one great tomato...hard to find though...

Delicious (I) 77 days 1 pound fruit that is smooth, red and meaty with few seeds. World record holder at 7lbs. 12 ounces.

Dona VFFNT (I) 65 days French gourmet variety with outstanding flavor and a near perfect acid/sugar ratios balance. Dark red, 6 ounce, smooth and slightly flat. A heavy producer with large, solid and meaty fruit. Stake them or the fruit will break them.

Early Girl V (I) 52 days

Improved Early Girl VFF (I) 52 days

New Girl F(2)V (I) 62 days(better flavor than Early Girl)

Medium sized (4 to 6 ounce) fruit are firm and solid with a good flavor, making a nice slicer. Quick, heavy production makes this a good bet for fall planting and a great start to the spring.

Early Goliath VFFNTASt (I) 58 days Extra large crops of 8 ounce sweet, red fruit with a luscious flavor and great disease resistance wrapped up in continuous production...what more could you want.

Fantastic VF (I) 70 days This heirloom is a firm, meaty slicer. The fruit grows up to 5 inches across. High yielding and great for canning.

First Lady VFNT (I) 60 days Developed for its taste and production of 4 to 6 ounce fruit that is crack resistant. Add heavy yields and we can call this one a winner.

Floramerica VFFNTStAsc 70 days (1978 AAS) Developed by the University of Florida for humid areas. This winner has the ability to set fruit under adverse conditions including hot weather. Solid dark scarlet fruit averages 8 to 10 ounces. Excellent whether fresh, canned or cooked. Compare it with Solar Set and Sunmaster (page 4)

4th of July (I) 49 days 4 ounce fruit, firm yet juicy and tasty. Super early and big enough for slicing.

Giant Belgium (I) 90 days Huge sweet fruit weighing up to 2 pounds is dark pink, low acid, and with a mild flavor that is so sweet some growers make wine with them....hum...Solid meaty with few seeds. Still trying to wrap my mind around the wine thing....

Grape (I) 55 days Delicious clusters of elongated red cherry tomatoes. Heat tolerant and disease resistant...always a good choice.

Hawaiian FN (I) 75 days Produces large, deep globed-shaped fruit that is smooth, firm and well flavored.

Heartland VFFASt (D) 68 days Growing only 3 to 4 feet tall, a small cage will suffice to produce a good crop of 6 to 8 ounce meaty tomatoes. Great in a container.

Heatwave VFFASt (D) 70 days Sets fruit under higher temps than most other varieties. Medium to large, quality, good tasting fruit. Plant up to 45 days after regular varieties.



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Homestead (D) 80 days Deep red, large, firm, meaty fruit that is great even green. You can be a little more adventuresome than this old standby, but it's a goody.

Husky Tomato Series VF (I) 65 to 72 days
The whole bunch are dwarf (48") and compact. Fruits is gourmet quality, and plant will work great in containers or in the garden.

Husky Red 5 to 7 ounce fruit with good flavor.

Husky Cherry red Tasty 1 inch fruit

Husky Pink 5 to 6 ounce pink with mild flavor.

Husky Gold (1993 AAS) 5 - 7 ounce fruit with a mild sweet taste.

Improved Porter (I) 70 days 3 ounce deep red fruit is meaty, tasty and round. Stores well if picked green in the fall.

Jack Pot VFFNASt G(D) 71 days Resistant to gray leaf spot. Globe shaped large, uniform rich red fruit with a fine flavor. High yields on a compact vine.

Jet Star VF (I) 70 days A heavy producer of globe shaped fruit that ripen all the way through. Low acid and a compact size gives this variety thumbs up from even commercial growers.

La Roma VFF (D) 62 days Excellent Italian type for paste, sauce, and eating fresh. 4 ounce fruit is thick walled, juicy and tasty. Compare with Roma (page 4.)

Lemon Boy VFNASt (I) 72 days 3½ inch fruit with a mild sweet flavor and low in acid.

Margherita VF (D) 73 days 5 to 6 ounce fruit, elongated roma type. Thin skinned and made for cooking.

Marglobe (I) 77 days Medium large fruit that is smooth, red with good yields. Great for processing but needs a well prepared bed for best flavor.

Matt's Wild Cherry (I) Wild variety from Mexico. Extremely sweet, small fruit that rarely has any disease problems.

Merced (D) 69 days 9 ounce red tomatoes are smooth, round and firm. Very productive and an excellent flavor, all wrapped up in a compact plant...more you ask?... ok... add heat tolerance too!

Miracle Sweet VFFNT (I) 67 days 7 ounce fruit in tremendous numbers that is smooth and ripen uniformly. Stake them up unless you have lots of room. This tomato has been reported to be one of the tastiest around.

Moby Grape (D) 70 days 2 ounce super sweet fruit on a compact plant. Only needs a small cage. Some people claim that it is the sweetest cherry tomato out there.

Oxheart, Giant (I) 90 days Extra large fruit (we are talking 2 pounders), firm, meaty, heart shaped and pink with thick walls and a mild flavor.

Patio (D) 70 days Great in a container or in the garden. Medium sized fruit on a sturdy, dwarf upright plant...a large cage is overkill on this one.

Porter (I) 78 days Small oval 1 to 2 ounce fruit. Popular fall variety that is tough as a boot and makes a crop even under the most adverse conditions.

President VFFNT (D) 68 days A heavy producer with large, round, deep red fruit with excellent flavor. In the same class as Celebrity (page 2), but hard to find. Also compare it with Terrific (page 5).

Quick Pick VFNTA (I) 60 days A trouble free tomato with heavy yields. The 4 to 8 ounce fruit are round and smooth. Prone to sun scald, this is a great choice for your fall and early spring garden.

Red Robin (D) 55 days And now for something completely different...super dwarf...8 to 12 inches tall...sweet flavor...think... hanging basket.



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Road Runner II VFFNTMVAscSt (D) 72 days
8 ounce fruit on a compact 3 ½ foot plant with a great acid/sugar balance. Add a firm texture for long shelf life and you're in the farm stand business. Harvest it all in a 14 day window and then retire.

Roma VF (D) 78 days Italian pear type that is great for paste and cooking. Meaty with few seeds, the fruit grows in clusters. Does not produce as well as La Roma (page 3) but is easier to find...go figure?

Rutgers VFA (D) 73 days Produces good tasting red deeply oblate fruit weighing about 5 ounces. An oldie but goodie, production leaves you wishing for more.

Sausage (I) 75 days Unusually shaped fruit up to 6 inches long. Picture a banana shaped Roma. Prolific and tasty, but you will need to order the seed and start them yourself.

Simba VFNT (I) days Developed as a greenhouse tomato, but does well in commercial or home gardens. Huge vines (you must stake this one up) produce dark red fruit that is crack resistant with a good flavor.

Small Fry VFNASt (D) 65 days (1970 AAS)
A large cherry variety that produces heavily on a very compact plant. Great in a pot.

Solar Fire VFFFSt (D) 72 days Medium sized (8 to 10 oz.) fruit that will set in hot, humid weather. Good yields of glossy, crack resistant firm fruit, best eaten fresh.

Solar Set VFF (D) 70 days A heat tolerant variety developed by the University of Florida. Sets fruit up to 92° days and 72° nights and in high humidity. 8 to 9 ounce fruit in abundance with a delicious, full flavor. Compare with Floramerica (page 2) and Sunmaster.

Sugary (S-D) 85 days (2005 AAS) Tiny, red, pointed, oval fruit that are very sweet. Huge yields and big vines...stake 'em up.

Sun Gold (I) 57 days A very sweet orange colored cherry tomato that grows in clusters on tall vigorous plants, be sure to stake it early. Interesting sweet, fruity flavor.

Sun Leaper VFF (D) 69 days A hot set variety with 9 ounce fruit and improved vigor.

Sunmaster VFFStAsc (D) 72 days A hot set tomato released in 1996. Sets fruit up to 96° days and 82° nights. (Compare it with Floramerica, page 2 and Solar Set). An excellent balance of sweet and acid in a 7 to 8 ounce fruit. They are uniform with a very pleasing taste, if you let them ripen on the vine.

Sunny VFFSA (D) days Medium to large fruit with excellent quality and flavor. Compact plants are great for a fall garden.

Super Fantastic VFN (I) 70 days Heavy yields of 10 ounce fruit that are smooth, solid and meaty with an excellent flavor. Will bear even when it's hot out.

Super Bush (D) 80 days Large meaty fruit on a very determinate bush. This is a one yield variety...you get it all at once...nice if your freezing or canning.

Supersonic VF (I) 75 days Large, oblate, smooth, firm and meaty fruit. A dependable producer you should try...provided you can get the seed.

Surefire VF (D) 65 days Round, firm and smooth, 6 to 8 ounce fruit stores very well. Introduced in 1992, the fruit is slow to ripen and leaves something to be desired in the flavor department. A very well prepared bed with cottonseed meal added may improve the taste.

Sweet Chelsea VFNT (I) 45 days Disease resistance and drought tolerance in one. Produces up to 200 low-acid fruit on one plant. Round, 1 ounce fruit is firm and exceptionally sweet. Considered to be one of the best flavored cherry tomatoes ever.

Sweet 100 (I) 65 days

Sweet Million FNT (I) 65 days Large clusters of large red and tasty cherry tomatoes. Big vines produce bumper crops; stake them early for best results

Taxi (D) 68 days Heavy yields of bright yellow, 4 to 6 ounce fruit that is firm, mild and acid free.



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Terrific VFFNTASt (I) 70 days Beautiful tomatoes with good taste with heavy production over a long period of time. Fruit is comparable to President (page 3).

Tomatillo Not a true tomato, but a close cousin, producing an abundance of green fruit, about the size and shape of a large cherry tomato. Heat loving, easy to grow and prolific this fruit is a simple addition to your tomato patch. Used in salsa verde and other Southwest dishes.

Top Gun VFFStAsc TSW (D) 75 days 7 to 8 ounce fruit are a uniform color, firm and ripen all at once with an excellent sweet flavor. Grows on the ground or on short cages. Bred to flower in the heat so they offer a great yield potential.

Viva Italia VFFNAStBspG (D) 72 days A very heavy producer of squarish roma- type tomatoes. Eat it, cook it, can it, freeze it. The best Roma-type if you can find it.

Wild Texas Tomato Little known and hard to find, but makes loads of clusters of tiny fruit thru the heat. Good flavor if you want to get a work out gathering the little things. It might work as a way to keep the birds off your larger tomatoes, those little ones are easier for them to eat, and they might leave yours alone.

Yellow Pear (I) 78 days Clusters of pear-shaped fruit that are good for preserving, pickling and throwing at your neighbor's cat...so I'm told...

Growth Habit Legend:

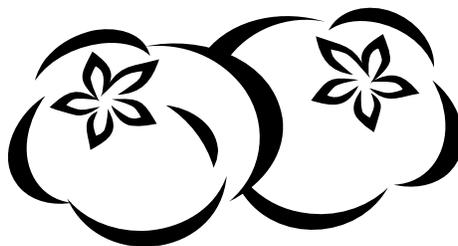
- (D) Determinate
- (I) Indeterminate
- (ISI) Indeterminate-short-internodes
- (S-D) Semi-determinate

Disease Resistance

- V - Verticillium Wilt
- F - Fusarium Wilt
- FF - Fusarium Wilt Race 1 and 2
- N - Nematodes
- T - Tobacco Mosaic Virus
- Asc - Alternaria Stem Canker – Stemphylium
- BSp - Bacterial speck
- TSW - Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus
- G - Gray Leaf Spot

Another great information source

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/easygardening/tomato/tomato.html>





Tomato Selection Guide

Our Top Tomato Tips

- Plan ahead. Decide what type of tomato you like. Cherry or Roma? Small slicer or a big one? Meaty or juicy? There are lots of choices.
- Prepare your beds properly: High, well drained and lots of organic matter (i.e. Black humus or compost). If you want quality vegetables prepare the bed of their dreams.
- Buy quality seed or plants.
- Plant them a little deep...if they are tall plant them sideways...we can explain this and why it works.
- Use organic fertilizer. Cotton seed meal is reported to make your fruit even tastier. Microlife, an all purpose fertilizer we use, is a great choice. It can't burn...even if it lands on the foliage. You can throw it out like chicken feed and you don't have to water it in...sound almost too easy.
- When your fruit is about 1 inch across fertilize again and then monthly after that.
- Water, slowly and evenly...try to avoid splashing soil on to plants. Do not let them wilt...this really effects yield and quality.
- Mulch, mulch, mulch. It helps prevent soil borne diseases from being splashed onto your plants when you water or it rains.
- Plain corn meal (with no wheat flour) is a **VERY** effective fungicide. Sprinkle it over seedlings to prevent damping off. Sprinkle it around your plants to prevent soil borne fungus. Make a "tea bag" of corn meal and steep it in warm water. Pour resulting "corn water" into a spray bottle and give your plants a thorough spraying regularly. Soak your feet in it too.
- Check for pests and disease regularly...your shadow in the garden makes plants grow better. If you see a problem act quickly.
- Spray your yard with our "Guardeners Mix". It will keep bug away and will kill the ones that do get in...ask for recipe.
- Protect early plantings by turning your cages into mini greenhouses. Protect late plantings with N-Sulate (a light weight reusable cloth).
- This one will make you laugh. Hang red plastic Christmas ornaments on your plants before your fruit starts turning red. Since birds are territorial, they will try your "fruit" and find it no good, and go to your neighbors. If this fails...try bird netting.
- For providing this great information at no charge...you should bring us a sample of your crop (spaghetti sauce or lasagna is acceptable)...just so we can make sure your doing it right...and to appease the nursery gods.