

# Tomato Varieties

VARIETY	USES	FLAVOR/ TEXTURE	SIZE/SHAPE/ COLOR	DESCRIPTION	MATURITY SEASON
Beefmaster	Slicing	Outstanding taste; solid, meaty	Large (up to 2lbs), bright red	Strong vines yield huge (up to 2 lbs) red, mouthwatering beefsteak type tomato. Can be staked.	Late
Better Boy	Slicing	Extremely flavorful, Juicy firm flesh	Avg. 1lb, round, scarlet skin & flesh	All-time favorite main season staked tomato. Uniform bright, deep red color.	Mid to Late
Big Boy	Slicing	Plump, juicy and flavorful	Deep red, round fruit	Large, firm, meaty red fruit. Can be staked.	Mid to Late
Brandywine	Heirloom slicing	Generally considered best-flavored	Rosypink, up to 1.5lbs., flat globe shape	Heirloom variety originating in the 1800's. Delicious large pink tomatoes.Requires staking.	Late
Celebrity	Slicing, salad, canning	Juicy, firm fruit with solid flesh, good flavor	Attractive, medium 8-12 oz, globe-shaped, red	Great eye appeal and yield. Large, firm fruit with solid flesh. Disease resistant.	Early to Mid
Cherry- 'Husky Cherry Red	Salad	Sweet	1" Round Red	What makes this variety so special is the plant only grows 50" tall; more fruit in less space. Small enough to grow in a container with support.	Early to Mid
Cherry Tomato Sweet 100	Salad	Super sweet	1" Red Cherry	Growers favorite cherry tomato. Fruit in clusters of 20 or more. Stake or trellis.	Mid
Early Girl	Slicing	Good flavor	Red, globe-shaped	Popular early tomato.	Early
Grape Tomato 'Mini Charm'	Salad	Exceptionally sweet	3 oz Red oval	A cluster grape with 20-50 fruits per cluster. Compact plant	Early
Hillbilly	Heirloom slicing	Mild flavor favored by many faithful growers, low acid	Beefsteak type, 1-2lbs, striped with yellow, pink, red & green	Heirloom fruit is striped with the unique pink, yellow & green colors. Large fruit are a favorite for taste.	Late
Jetstar	Slicing	Excellent flavor, low acid	Big 6-8oz, red, globe shaped	High yields of globe shaped, 6-8 ounce fruits. Indeterminate.	Early to Mid
Juliet	Salad	Sweet, firm, grape tomato flavor	1 oz., elongated, grape shaped, bright glossy red	Large indeterminate plants should be staked, producing clusters of small, sweet, oblong red cherry tomatoes.	Early
Keepsake	Slicing, Salad	Exceptional tomato flavor	Medium sized, bright red, smooth and globular	These tomatoes get their Keepsake name because they last longer after picking than any other variety lasting up to 6 weeks while also being highly disease resistant.	Mid
Mountain Gold	Slicing	Very sweet, firm, non-acid	Fancy, 3 1/2" globe-shaped, deep tangerine-yellow	Attractive, firm, globe shaped fruit have good tolerance to cracking. Very sweet & non-acid.	Early to Mid
Roma / Viva Italia	Paste, canning, salsa, salad	Firm fruit with solid flesh	Blocky oval shape, red	Hybrid paste tomato that outyields them all. Evenly proportioned fruit.	Mid
Sunstart	Slicing, salad	Mild flavored, firm	Large, round, smooth red fruit	"This variety replaces Early Girl. It has a similar maturity date and will produce LARGER and BETTER TASTING tomatoes than early girl" <i>Scott Graf</i> .	Early
Supersonic	Slicing	Delicious taste	Large, deep oblate, smooth & crack-free	Heavy yields of large, deep red, meaty tomatoes of excellent quality.	Mid
Yellow Pear	Salad	Pleasant, mild & sweet	1 1/2" pear shaped yellow	Charming pear-shaped heirloom tomatoes are 1 3/4" long and borne in heavy clusters on large, vigorous plants. Mild, sweet flavor. Indeterminate.	Mid



**Graf Growers**  
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# Growing Tomatoes



## What Variety?

**Determinate or Bush** varieties are those that reach a certain plant height and then stop growing, with most fruit borne over a four week period. **Celebrity, Keepsake, Mountain Gold, Viva Italia/Roma, Sunstart.**

**Indeterminate** varieties continue to grow and flower throughout the season, but have less mature fruits at any one time.

**Jetstar, Yellow Pear, Big Boy, Better Boy, Carolina Gold, Sweet 100 Cherry, Mini Charm, Beefmaster, Brandywine, Hillbilly, Supersonic.**

See chart on other side for further information.

## Transplanting Tomatoes

Choose an overcast, wind-free day if possible. Tomato plants thrive in any reasonably good garden soil that is well-drained and gets full sun. Water plants thoroughly about ½ hour before planting using a solution of water soluble fertilizer such as Schultz Plant Starter Plus Fertilizer. Make sure holes are large enough to accommodate all the roots without crowding. Set transplants deep, the first true leaves just above soil level. Plant leggy plants with the root ball horizontal; roots will form along the buried stem and make better subsequent growth. Partially refill hole with soil, water in and finish filling with soil and firm soil around stem.



## To Stake or not to Stake

Wooden stakes or wire cages 40 to 72" tall work well as supports for tomato plants, the shorter for determinate varieties and the taller for the indeterminates.

In large plantings, rows of staked tomatoes should be 30 to 42" apart and plants spaced 24 to 30" apart. If tomatoes are not staked, row spacing should be 6 ft. and plants spaced at 4 ft. apart to allow proper air movement and plant development. Unstaked plants should be protected with plastic or organic mulch.

Staking is preferred where space is limited as the tomatoes will yield a much higher proportion of clean, undamaged fruit. Tie plants with any soft stretchable material at regular intervals throughout the summer. Do not tie too tightly; the stems will grow and thicken as the plants mature.

## Caring for Tomato Plants

- **Keep plants evenly well watered**, particularly during periods of drought, to ensure better yields and control such problems as blossom end rot.

- Fertilize with low nitrogen fertilizer such as Espoma Tomato Tone® when the plants begin to set fruit. Then feed once a month as the fruits are developing. Stop when they reach mature size. Excessive nitrogen produces an abundance of foliage rather than fruit.

- Weed control is extremely important since weeds compete for water, food, and space. Mulching with straw or grass clippings will prevent weeds, help conserve moisture, help protect fruits from rot and blight and help maintain even soil temperatures.

*Visit the Garden School at [www.grafgrowers.com](http://www.grafgrowers.com)  
for more great information on Tomatoes*



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