



Heirloom & Hybrid Tomato Varieties Available *at the 2017 Great Tomato Plant Sale* *East County—Antioch*

April 22, 10 am –3 pm
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, Antioch

[Other sale dates & locations: April 1, 10 am–3 pm in Walnut Creek. April 8, 10 am–3 pm in Richmond. Not all varieties available in all locations. Please see separate lists for Walnut Creek & Richmond, available on this website.]

For propagation, the UC Master Gardeners here in Contra Costa use seeds from open-pollinated varieties that breed true, along with a number of hybrids to provide varieties that work well in small spaces or containers and are disease-resistant. We have collected many of these seeds from our own gardens (*MG Seed Stock*). We do not use any GMO seeds.

Quotes in *italics* are from UC Master Gardeners here in Contra Costa! Number of days from transplant to fruit ripening is approximate and will vary with environmental & cultural conditions.

FULL SIZE/STANDARD—BEEFSTEAK/SLICER

- **Azoychka** (Indeterminate—70 days). Beefsteak. Russian heirloom. One of the earliest tomatoes, this small, lemon yellow beefsteak produces 5 to 8 ounce fruits with bright yellow interiors and a delicious, sweet taste with a hint of lemon.
- **Black Krim** (Indeterminate—70-90 days). Beefsteak. Originally from the Isle of Krim in the Black Sea. With sufficient sunlight and heat, this Russian beefsteak turns almost black with green shoulders. Very juicy. Considered one of the best “black” tomatoes. (*“Finally! A beefsteak that grows in Richmond. Maybe not many, but with a delicious, slightly salty flavor.”*) *MG Seed Stock*.
- **Brandywine Pink—Sudduth’s Strain** (Indeterminate—90 days). Beefsteak. An Amish heirloom treasure, still considered the world’s greatest tasting tomato! Flattened pink fruits grow to 7” in diameter and up to one pound on large vines. (*“Excellent flavor and very productive!”*) *MG Seed Stock*.
- **Cherokee Purple** (Indeterminate—75-90 days). Beefsteak. (*Ark of Taste variety*) Pre-1890 variety, reputed to be an old Cherokee Indian heirloom. Uniquely colored dusty rose-brown fruit weighing up to 12 ounces. Delicious, old-time flavor. (*“The taste was outstanding. It wants a sunny spot. Very pretty-looking fruit, dark pink with green shoulders.”*) *MG Seed Stock*.



- **Eva Purple Ball** (Indeterminate—75 days). Slicer. German heirloom bearing smooth, round 4-5 ounce blemish-free fruits with cherry red flesh. Very good flavor. Excellent resistance to diseases, including late blight. Does well in cooler areas. (*“NOT purple, but a nice bright red. Often overlooked which is a shame! A terrific producer! Good-sized plant doled out medium to largish tomatoes with pointed ends. Very good taste. Great for those who want their stuffed tomatoes EXACTLY the same size.”*) MG Seed Stock.
- **Green Zebra**-organic (Indeterminate—80 days). Slicer. Ravishing, deep green, 3-5 ounce zebra-striped tomato. Sweet, zingy flavor. Very productive plants. Favored by chefs like Alice Waters and found at specialty and farmers markets. (*“One of my favorite tomatoes. Flesh is bright, psychedelic green, and the taste is both sharp and sweet at the same time.”*)
- **Hillbilly** (Indeterminate—85 days). Beefsteak. Originally from West Virginia, this bi-color is like a lovely sunrise, yellow with streaks of red and when you cut it open, it’s an amazing starburst. Robust and prolific, with a rich, sweet flavor. Low acid.
- **Italian Heirloom**-organic (Indeterminate—80 days). Slicer. Outstanding heirloom from Italy. Robust plants loaded with fruit weighing up to one pound. (*“An Italian classic...beautiful red, meaty tomatoes with complex, sweet flavor. Just what you would expect from a tomato revered by the Italians. A great tomato and a super choice for cooking, eating fresh or canning. Earliest of the heirlooms to ripen in my garden, and a prolific producer.”*) MG Seed Stock.
- **Kellogg’s Breakfast**-organic (Indeterminate—90 days). Beefsteak. West Virginia heirloom beefsteak tomato with large orange fruits weighing from 1-2 pounds. (*“WOW!!! For a large, delicious, productive and sliceable tomato (think BLT), try the Kellogg’s Breakfast. Once this one got started it was a HUGE producer! Very large tomatoes, deep gold in color and a mild sweet flavor...delicious! A good acid/sugar balance.”*) MG Seed Stock.
- **Legend**-organic (Determinate—68 days). Slicer. One of the earliest-maturing slicer tomatoes, 5-8”, with a sweet flavor and just a little acid to add zing. Developed at Oregon State University, Legend shows strong tolerance to blight strains which makes it particularly well-adapted to West County’s cooler climes. Great taste, early, and disease-resistant—an unbeatable combination! (*“This is an early producer and produced longer than any other variety in my garden the last two years. Plants are loaded with beautiful, red slicers.”*) MG Seed Stock.
- **Mortgage Lifter** (Indeterminate—80-90 days). Beefsteak. As its name indicates, a prolific family heirloom from 1940s Kentucky where, using the proceeds from its sale, “Radiator Charlie” Byles paid off his \$6,000 mortgage (those were the days!!) in just six years. Produces 1-2 pound big, red, very flavorful beefsteak tomatoes. Plants are very productive, disease-resistant and long-bearing. (*“Just all around perfect tomatoes, no problems, good yield, medium-to-large fruits with that wonderful, old-fashioned tomato taste.”*) MG Seed Stock.



- **Paul Robeson** (Indeterminate—90 days). Beefsteak. A Russian heirloom that was named in honor of American opera singer and racial equality / social justice advocate Paul Robeson (1898-1976) who was idolized in Russia. It produces 7-10 ounce, blackish brick-red fruits whose sweet and smoky flavor is unparalleled. *New in 2017!*
- **Persimmon** (Indeterminate—79 days). Beefsteak. Vigorous and prolific heirloom produces 12 ounce to 2 pound persimmon-colored beefsteak tomatoes. Right at home in short-season gardens. Very meaty with few seeds. Low acid. (*“Beautiful, large slicer with rose/orange skin and flesh. Real eye candy in a tomato salad. Sweet, rich tomato taste—another taste test winner. Persimmon is said to have been grown in Thomas Jefferson’s garden.”*) MG Seed Stock.
- **Stupice** (Indeterminate—55(!)-75 days). Slicer. Originally from the former Czechoslovakia. Forms a compact plant with potato leaf-like foliage. One of the best early tomatoes with good yields. Very cold-tolerant, disease- and drought-resistant and bears until frost! What else could you want? Oh yes, 3-4 ounce delicious fruits in clusters. (*“I chose this tomato in particular to honor my paternal grandparents, both immigrants from Czechoslovakia, who passed through Ellis Island on their journey to the United States. Stupice fared well under widely fluctuating temperatures in Orinda all summer long with high yield. Naturally salty and very tasty!”*) MG Seed Stock.
- **Vorlon** (Indeterminate—80 days). Beefsteak. No wonder this is named for a fictional alien race on TV! It’s one weird tomato—a stunning purple-black beefsteak with a rich, smoky-earthy taste that Baker Creek called its “best tasting tomato” last year. 1-pound fruits appear mid-season. (*“Even in Richmond, Vorlon produced the most delicious tomatoes.”*) MG Seed Stock.

FULL SIZE/STANDARD—CHERRY

- **Black Cherry**-organic (Indeterminate—75 days). Vigorous plants with large vines that yield very well and produce dusky purple-brown grape-like 1” tomatoes with a rich, complex flavor. (*“My absolute favorite—the best dark cherry tomato.”*) MG Seed Stock.
- **Isis Candy** (Indeterminate—90 days). Gorgeous bi-color cherry tomato in heavy clusters with a spectacular yellow-gold cat’s eye starburst on the blossom end. Delicious flavor that is wonderfully rich and fruity, but not sugary sweet. Kids love these garden treats. (*“This was the only cherry I grew this year, so I couldn’t say how it compared to say, Sungold. It did grow over my 6’ fence into the neighbor’s yard. Neighbor was happy, happy, happy!”*) MG Seed Stock.
- **Sungold**-hybrid (Indeterminate—65 days). A positively luscious, bite-size golden cherry that isn’t fully mature until it turns bright apricot-orange with an intensified taste. Globes are borne in long 15” fruit trusses on a vigorous vine. Flavor is fruity, tropical. Tendency to crack means you won’t find it in the markets, so you’ll just have to eat it like a snack!



- **Super Sweet 100**-hybrid (Indeterminate—65 days). Long fruiting stems produce 100 or more super-sweet 1" diameter cherry tomatoes. Plants bear fruits throughout the season. Requires staking. Extra-high in Vitamin C.
- **Yellow Pear** (Indeterminate—78 days). Miniature pear-shaped tomatoes with a clear yellow color. Wonderful in salads or as "garden candy" with a delightfully sweet flavor. Continuous harvest until frost. (*"Zillions of tomatoes on this plant in my Pleasant Hill garden that must have reached 10+ feet in diameter and soared to the top of my pergola. Tasted good."*)

FULL SIZE/STANDARD—PASTE

- **Costoluto Genovese** (Indeterminate—75-80 days). Old Italian, heat-loving favorite. Good for fresh eating and for canning. Intensely flavorful, deep red flesh. Popular with chefs. (*"Highly productive. Odd-shaped medium-large fruit [slightly flattened with several lobes]. Very tasty sliced and also great for sauce and juice. Not so easy to peel because of its irregular shape, but the taste more than makes up for that!"*)
- **San Marzano Regular** (Indeterminate—80 days). Famous Italian cooking tomato filled with thick, dry flesh and few seeds. Superb flavor in slightly rectangular fruits hanging in clusters. Solid flesh is perfect for canning. (*"Excellent yields that continue way into the fall."*) MG Seed Stock.

SMALL SPACE/CONTAINER—BEEFSTEAK/SLICER

- **Black Sea Man**-organic (Determinate—75 days). Slicer. Hardy Russian heirloom that produces in 75 days and does well in containers. (*"The mahogany brown medium sized fruit has a delicious sweet-tart, complex tomato flavor. It has a combination of red, pink, green, and mahogany flesh, yielding the most unusual & beautiful tomato when sliced. A smallish plant, but a very good producer."*) MG Seed Stock.
- **Caspian Pink** (Indeterminate—80 days). Beefsteak. From southern Russia's warm Caspian Sea region, this is the first tomato to beat Brandywine in California taste tests! Often called the "Queen of the Pinks", with an incredibly sweet and juicy fruit that can reach one pound or larger. Great either fresh or cooked. Will do well in cooler areas. (*"A beefsteak that grows in West County! Was one of the best tomatoes in my garden."*)
- **Patio**-hybrid (Determinate—70 days). Slicer. Popular? You bet! Compact 2' plants with beautiful rugose leaves are perfect for a large container. May produce up to 50 (!) 3-4 ounce fruits in an 8-week harvest season. Good flavor. *New in 2017.*

SMALL SPACE/CONTAINER—CHERRY

- **Washington Cherry** (Determinate—60 days). Developed by Washington State U., here's an early bird that is prolific and grows well in varying climates. Deep red, meaty, thick-walled and flavorful—all on a compact vine. Crack resistant and keeps well on and off the vine.



SMALL SPACE/CONTAINER—PASTE

- **Italian Roma Bush** (Determinate—85 days). Best “small space” paste tomato. Produces *enormous* yields of large red tomatoes. Very meaty and perfect for canning and sauces.