

# Recommended Tomato Varieties

## Tomato Variety Things to Know

- Not every tomato works for everyone.
- Generally hybrid determinate tomatoes produce the most, but not always.
- Heirlooms- Just because a tomato isn't red or is unusually shaped does not mean it is an heirloom. Seed catalogues are now calling non-red tomatoes "Heirloom Hybrids".
- If choosing a tomato variety is labeled an heirloom, make sure it's an heirloom in a hot and dry location, not an heirloom in a place with cool summers.
- Nutrition and watering techniques effect flavor too, not just variety choice. Unhealthy plants do not produce good tasting tomatoes.

## Cherries, Grapes & Salad Size

**Juliet F1(I)**- red grape type. Very productive. Sweet flavor, or so I've been told. 60 DTM. Plants get big. 60 DTM. All American selection.

**Super Sweet 100 F1 (I)**- red cherry. Productive, sweet. Verticillium and fusarium resistant. Prior rodeo tomato winner. 65 DTM.

**Sun Gold F1(I)** – yellow cherry, very sweet. People seem to know it by name. 57 DTM.

**Snow White(I)** – light colored yellow. Does not sunburn. 75 DTM. Recommended by late Master Gardener Connie Townsend.

**Vernissage Black(I)** – Saladette to cherry size. Very productive, but very seedy. Plants get huge. Red and dark green/purple striped. 75 DTM. Better choice for sauces than fresh eating.

**Purple Boy F1 (I)**- Beth McMahon's favorite tomato. Saladette to small tomato size if thinned. Nematode resistant. Productive. Resistant to Verticillium, Tomato Mosaic Virus and fusarium crown and root rot. 65-70 DTM.

## Classic Slicer & Beefsteak Red Tomatoes

**Early Girl F1 (I)** – Small to medium size. Verticillium and fusarium wilt resistant. 52 DTM.

**Bella Rosa F1(D)** – attractive good sized tomatoes. No more heat resistant than any other variety on this list. 75 DTM. Verticillium, fusarium, nematode and Alternaria resistant.

**Atkinson (I)** – old open pollinated field variety from Florida.

**Thessaloniki (I)** – From Greece. Medium size. 75 to 80 DTM.

**Celebrity F1(SD)** – The one tomato that everyone in tomato trial grew, and it grew well for the most part. Not everyone likes the flavor (not as sweet?). Semi-determinate, productive, fusarium, verticillium, nematode and Alternaria resistant. All American selection in 1984. 70 DTM.

**Bush beefsteak(D)**- 62 days. Small to medium sized tomato. Compact and bushy.

**Bush Early Girl F1 (D)**-54 DTM. Slightly larger tomatoes than Early Girl, bush form. Fusarium, verticillium and nematode resistant.

**Polbig F1 (D)**- This year's rodeo tomato. Medium sized tomatoes. Early producer, 59 DTM.

## **Paste Tomatoes**

**Picus F1(D)**- Roma that will set in the heat. Firm fruit. Alternaria, fusarium, grey leaf spot, tomato spotted wilt and verticillium resistance.

## **Large Tomatoes**

**Beefsteak (I)**- 95 days.

**Big Beef F1 (I)** – Can get tall, but reliable, produces when others will not. Good heat tolerance. Verticillium, Fusarium and nematode resistant. 73 DTM.

**Better Boy F1 (I)**- firm, slicer type. 75 DTM. Verticillium, fusarium and nematode resistant.

**Red Snapper F1 (D)** – Local commercial tomato. Productive, good sized fruit. Has some heat resistance. Verticillium, fusarium and Alternaria resistant. Intermediate resistance to Tomato Spotted Wilt and Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus. 70-75 DTM.

**Thunderbird F1 (D)**- Local commercial tomato. Firm fruit, good sized. Productive. Good shelf life on fruit. Verticillium, fusarium and Alternaria resistant, intermediate resistance to Gray Leaf Spot and Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus. Not sure about heat set, but local farm stand producers grow this one. 72-75 DTM.

**Aussie** – Produced really large tomatoes, but only been tested one year. Produced into August. Thick skin. Heirloom from Australia. 85 DTM

**Cherokee Purple (I)** – heirloom. In my experience in a good year produces about five tomatoes per plant. In a bad year, none or one or two. First tomatoes are usually good sized. If the seed description says resistance to cracking, that's a lie. 80-90 DTM.

**Black Krim (I)**- Master Gardener recommendation. Heirloom. Purple tomato.

## **Unusually Shaped Tomatoes**

**Purple calabash (I)**- ribbed tomato. dark maroon color. Unusually productive. Size shrinks as season goes along. 83 DTM.

**Zapotec (I)**-ribbed tomato. Productive, ribbed almost oxheart shaped tomatoes. Pinkish color. Size shrinks as season goes along. No virus resistance. Heat tolerant for an heirloom, but not supreme heat tolerance. 80-90 DTM.

**Costoluto Fiorentino (I)**- Ribbed tomato. As heat tolerant as any heat tolerant tomato can be. Very lobed fruits. Size shrinks as season goes by. Might be ideal for stuffing. 83 DTM. Plants get big.

If you have a tomato variety you'd like to recommend, please send it to me at Elizabeth McMahon, [elizabeth.mcmahon@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:elizabeth.mcmahon@ag.tamu.edu)

## **Dwarf Tomatoes**

<https://www.dwarftomatoproject.net/>

*Last update: 2/6/2026*

*Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.*

