

Ten Steps to Your Best Tomato Year Yet

Handout

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by

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Tomato types:

- Cherries: up to 1" juicy, seedy, sweet
- Salad: 2" juicy, seedy
- Slicing: 3" denser, fewer seeds
- Sauce: 2-3" elongated, dense, drier, concentrated flavor, fewer seeds
- Beefsteak: 3-4" dense or open flesh, juicy, seedy, late season

Suggested tomato varieties:

Note: Not an exhaustive list, just some favorites!

Cherries:

Yellow Pear, Red Fig, Sweet Million, Sungold, Red Grape, Peacevine, Chadwick's (almost salad size)

Extra early:

Stupice (ind., salad, heirloom, Czech origin, potato-leaf)

*Oregon Spring (det., slicing)

Early Girl, Black Prince (ind., slicing)

Glacier (det., salad)

*Legend (det., beefsteak)

*Siletz (det., beefsteak)

Also: many with black or purple in their names are shorter season

Also: many from Russia like Moskovich and Cosmonaut Volkov

*developed to have good resistance to blight

Sauce:

Principe Borghese (det., heirloom)



Roma (det.)

San Marzano (ind., heirloom)

Amish Paste (ind., heirloom, longer season)

Odd colored:

Green Zebra (ind., salad, heirloom, bred from an old English variety, salad, prolific)

Mr. Stripey (ind., salad, similar to Green Zebra)

Black Krim (ind., slicing, heirloom, winey flavor)

Cherokee Purple (ind., slicing)

Taxi (det., salad, yellow, of course)

Jaune Flamee (ind., salad, heirloom, apricot color)

Silvery Fir Tree (det., salad, unique foliage, red fruit, great for pots)

Main season (longer time to harvest):

Costoluto Genovese (ind., slicing, heirloom, billowy accordion, rich, juicy)

Celebrity (det., beefsteak)

Mortgage Lifter (ind., beefsteak)

Brandywine (ind., beefsteak, many strains)

Some tomato terminology:

1. Determinate: ("det.") bush type plants, not vining, or not very vigorously; fruit ripens at once.
2. Indeterminate: ("ind.") vining plants, send up many shoots, produce fruit continuously until frost.
3. Blossom end rot: Somewhat common tomato disease. Brown rot is seen spreading from blossom end (bottom) of fruit. Caused by various bacteria and fungi; can come on with irregular watering or badly draining soil. Plants with calcium deficiency are most susceptible; treat with bone meal.
4. Late blight: Very common in maritime gardens. Plant stops growing, leaves and branches wither, turn brown, may rot. Cause by a fungus called Phytophthora; spreads fast on wet leaves and stems. To prevent it, avoid overhead watering and prune for air circulation. Prune off and destroy affected plant material; do not home compost it.
5. Bioregionally grown: seed from plants grown in the region, therefore more suited to the region's climate.

Some great seed companies:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, Mansfield, Missouri, www.rareseeds.com

Johnny's Selected Seeds, Winslow, Maine, www.johnnyseeds.com

Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah, Iowa, www.seedsavers.org

Territorial Seeds, Cottage Grove, Oregon, www.territorialseed.com