

2025 Tomato Varieties

Annual Spring Plant Sale – UCCE Master Gardeners of Yolo County
Woodland Community College

[Legend]

H Heirloom

C Container-friendly

TT Tried and True (grown successfully at least 2 out of the last 3 years by Yolo County master gardeners)

* New this year

Many of these tomato varieties have been grown for several years by local Master Gardeners. The variety descriptions are taken from seed catalogs. The “Yolo County” comments are based on our experience growing them, as well as taste tests at the Woodland Farmers Market.

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
African Queen [H, TT]	Large potato-leaf plants produce heavy crops of 16-32 oz., 3-5”, jade-pink lightly fluted beefsteak tomatoes with red flesh and rich flavor. Grows well in heat. Heirloom from North Carolina. Yolo County: Great flavor, good producer.	Indet. Pink Lg beefsteak	Late
Arkansas Traveler [H]	Pink 6-8 oz. slicer with mild flavor and good disease resistance, drought tolerance, and heat tolerance. Our seed source says this is a pre-1900 heirloom from the Ozark Mountains. (Other sources say it was developed at the University of Arkansas and released in 1968.)	Indet. Pink Medium	Mid-Late
Atta Girl [C, *]	Red, round, firm, uniform 3-5 oz. with classic tomato taste similar to Early Girl, Robust plants. Developed by Kanti Rawal and Steve Peters from a cross between a productive Canadian beefsteak and a BHN variety (hybrid tomatoes with high yield, disease resistance, and good fruit quality), combining the best traits of each.	Det. Red Medium	Mid
Benevento F1 [TT]	Vigorous hybrid vines produce beautiful medium-large yellow-striped red fruit with heirloom flavor and long shelf life. Deep watermelon-pink interior. Long ripening window. A favorite slicer, salad, and sauce tomato of Bay Area chefs. Bred by Fred Hempel, Bene Seeds. Yolo County: Productive, tasty, and disease resistant.	Indet. Red striped Beefsteak	Mid
Bloodstone [*]	Big, luscious burgundy beefsteak tomato with a distinctive swirl of red inside. Rich, sweet flavor and excellent texture. Vigorous, productive, disease-resistant, potato-leaf plants. Bred by Karen Olivier.	Indet. Burgundy Lg beefsteak	Mid
Blush [*]	Striking 1-2 oz. mango yellow snacking/salad tomato with pinkish orange steaks, 2” plum shape. Sweet, refreshing flavor with tropical notes, less acidic than many cherry tomatoes. Fruits are firm, crack resistant, and hold well on the vine. Robust foliage with good disease resistance. Winner of a 2024 taste test in the East Bay. Also called Blush Tiger. Bred by Fred Hempel, Bene Seeds.	Indet. Yellow w/ streaks Cherry: long oval shape	Early-Mid
Brandywine Cherry [*]	Imagine Brandywine flavor, the essence of “heirloom tomato” for many people, in a snack-size cherry tomato. Deep pink fruits are plentiful and early, on vigorous plants. A new variety from Kanti Rawal and Steve Peters.	Indet. Deep pink Cherry	Early
Bush Early Girl F1 [C, TT, *]	Compact bush version of Early Girl F1 but earlier, larger, more productive, and sweeter. Firm, meaty, red 5-7 oz. globes. Stocky 18” plant. Resistant to fusarium, nematodes, verticillium, and tobacco mosaic virus. Bred by Peto Seed. Yolo County: Outproduced other red determinates. Uniform blemish-free fruits.	Det. Red Medium	Early

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripen s
California Sungold	Sweet, fruity, vigorous, high-yielding, golden cherry, resistant to blossom end rot and cracking. Many people have tried to dehybridize Sungold F1. Instead, to develop an open-pollinated tomato reminiscent of Sungold's flavor but without its problems, Steve Peters and Kanti Rawal made new crosses.	Indet. Golden orange Cherry	Early-Mid
Carmello F1 [*]	Rich, balanced tomato flavor for slicing, salads, and sauces. Heavy producer of 5-10 oz. crack-resistant red fruit. Resistant to verticillium, fusarium, nematodes, and tomato mosaic virus. French hybrid.	Indet. Red Medium	Mid
Cherokee Purple [H, TT]	Famously rich flavor and texture. Medium-large flattened globe, 8-12 oz. fruits. Color is dusky purple-pink with dark shoulders. Relatively short vines, 5-6'. Heirloom from Tennessee. Yolo County: More disease resistant and reliable than many other heirlooms, with rich flavor and good production.	Indet. Purple-pink Beefsteak	Mid
Cherry Falls [C]	Bright red 1.5" cherry tomatoes have pleasantly sweet flavor. Compact productive plants are great in containers or cascading from hanging baskets. Our seed source says it's open-pollinated; other seed sources label it a hybrid. Originally bred by Floranova/Vegetalis.	Det. Red Cherry	Early
Chocolate Silk [*]	Excellent dark-tomato flavor with deliciously silky texture. Chestnut-red fruits with darker shading have an almost opalescent sheen. Most are 8-12 oz., with some larger. Steady all-season production. Bred by Kanti Rawal and Steve Peters.	Indet. Chestnut red Beefsteak	Mid
Chocolate Sprinkles F1 [TT,*]	Large, coppery red, firm crack-resistant cherries with forest green streaks grow in trusses of 6 to 8. Rich, sweet flavor. Productive. Resistant to fusarium and nematodes. Bred by Pan American Seed. Yolo County: Pointed cherries with a subtle crunch and wonderful sweet flavor produce until frost. Dense foliage protects from sunburn. Long shelf life.	Indet. Deep red w/ green stripes Cherry	Early-Mid
Estler's Mortgage Lifter [H,*]	Pink beefsteak with pleasant, rich flavor, 8-16 oz. Flattened at the poles, ribbed at the top, with rounded shoulders. Good production. Estler family heirloom from West Virginia, about 1922. Earliest of the 15 varieties of Mortgage Lifter, predating the Radiator Charlie's Mortgage Lifter of the 1930s.	Indet. Pink Beefsteak	Late
Girl Girl's Weird Thing [TT]	Gorgeous, dark red and olive fruit with red/pink striping, 8-16 oz. Reddish-purple interior with complex, balanced, intense sweet and mild flavor. Perfect for sandwiches and slicing. A mutation of Green Zebra originally found in a Canadian garden and named after the gardener's dog, Girl Girl. Yolo County: A top performer!	Indet. Red w/ green stripes Beefsteak	Mid-Late
Green Bee F1 [TT]	A favorite of Bay Area chefs for its tangy flavor, firm texture, and extraordinary shelf life (weeks, not days). Ideal for grilling and roasting because it stays firm even when cooked; also great for pickling, gazpacho, salsa fresca. Fruit can hold a long time on the vine without cracking or softening. Best picked when the skin develops a clear yellow-orange hue. Bred by Fred Hempel, Bene Seeds. Yolo County: Good flavor, prolific, unique crispy-ripe texture makes it fun to eat.	Indet. Green Cherry	Mid
Hawaiian Pineapple [H, TT]	Large 16-24 oz. golden yellow to orange beefsteak with scarlet blush. Fruity, sweet flavor with hints of pineapple. Very late, producing ripe fruit about 93 days after transplanting. Heirloom from Indiana. Yolo County: Scores high in taste and appearance.	Indet. Golden Lg.beefsteak	Late
Indian Stripe [H,*]	Similar to Cherokee Purple but more productive. Flavor described as rich, luscious, compelling, memorable, exquisite, with complexity of fine wine. Oblate 8-10 oz. maroon fruits with green shoulders. Gets its name from faint green stripes that fade as it ripens. Heirloom from Arkansas.	Indet. Dusky purple Beefsteak	Mid-Late

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripen s
Indigo Cherry Drops [TT]	Round 1" fruits have dark purple shoulders with rosy undersides and deep red flesh, 1-2 oz. Excellent sweet flavor and huge yields. Good leaf cover to prevent sun scald. Bred by Dr. Jim Myers at Oregon State University. Yolo County: Nonstop producer of tasty cherries.	Indet. Red Cherry	Mid
Jersey Breeze [*]	Workhorse salad tomato with excellent reliability and disease resistance and good balanced flavor. Consistently churns out juicy, tender, uniform red fruits in less than ideal conditions. Came from a "Jersey tomato" breeding program at Rutgers University many years ago and recently reintroduced. Yolo County: Consistent producer in hot Davis summer.	Indet. Red Medium	Mid
Legend [C,TT]	Good for containers. Short, bushy plants produce large glossy round red 4–5" parthenocarpic fruit, 8-16 oz. Great for salads and canning. Resistant to late blight. Bred by Dr. James Baggett, Oregon State University. Yolo County: Must-have for many master gardeners.	Det. Red Medium/ large	Early
Lemon Boy Plus F1 [C,*]	High-yielding 7-8 oz. yellow beefsteak consistent in size, shape, and quality with wide adaptability. Sweet, tangy flavor. Can be harvested bright lemon yellow to deeper golden yellow; harvest a bit underripe for a more acidic flavor. Resistant to verticillium, fusarium, nematodes, and more. Bred by Bayer/Seminis.	Indet. Yellow Medium	Mid
Magic Bullet	Productive plum-shape or elongated grape with sweet and deliciously complex flavor. Green, yellow, and pink with streaks of dark indigo on the shoulders. Colors are a psychedelic carpet ride on the outside and a melting gemstone swirl on the inside. Resistant to blossom end rot and cracking. Bred by Steve Peters and Kanti Rawal. Yolo County: Sweetest and most striking tomato in last year's garden! Firm tomato, keeps well.	Indet. Multicolor Cherry: long oval shape	Early
Pink Berkeley Tie Dye [TT]	Heavy producer of dark pink/purple fruit with metallic green stripes, 8-12 oz. Very meaty with excellent sweet, rich dark-tomato flavor. Good disease tolerance, keeps well. Bred by Brad Gates, Wild Boar Farms. Yolo County: Longtime favorite.	Indet. Pink/purple striped Beefsteak	Early- Mid
Pink Tiger [*]	Shockingly sweet snacking tomatoes are as flavorful as they are pretty. Elongated 2" fruit striped in ruby-pink and gold. Tropical flavor, rich and balanced, can ripen off the vine without compromising flavor. High yields. Bred by Fred Hempel, Bene Seeds. Yolo County: Top scorer at 2024 Woodland tomato tasting.	Indet. Pink Cherry: long oval shape	Early
Polaris [TT]	Ripe fruits are deep burgundy in color with a velvety soft core, 7-10 oz. Vigorous and productive potato-leaf variety, relatively early compared to similar varieties. Taste is rich, complex, and sweet. Bred by Karen Olivier. Yolo County: Excellent texture, a favorite for tomato sandwiches.	Indet. Purple Beefsteak	Mid
Prairie Fire [C,TT]	Elongated grape tomato, 1" x 3", red with subtle gold stripes. Brix of 10: intensely sweet! Top choice for snacking in the garden. Compact vine, wispy foliage. Bred by Cream of the Crop. Yolo County: Top scorer at 2022 Woodland tomato tasting. Extremely productive and incredibly sweet.	Semidet. Red, striped Cherry: long oval shape	Early
Raspberry Lyanna [C]	Small to medium size raspberry-pink fruit, very sweet and rich. Fruits are uniform and productive, 3-5 oz. Plants stay 3-5' high and can be planted in containers. Originally from Russia (possibly heirloom). Yolo County: Sweet flavor, produced all summer.	Semidet. Pink Small/ medium	Mid

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
Raya Rey [*]	Medium-size, slightly flattened fruit with light stripes. Bold, sweet flavor. Excellent firmness and texture. Productive, disease resistant, reliable. Bred by Fred Hempel, Bene Seeds.	Indet Red, striped Medium	Mid
Rosella Cherry [TT]	Fruity half-inch dark-pink cherry with few seeds. Exceptional balance of rich flavor with acidity reminiscent of raspberries or blackberries. Bred by Mark Rowland, Gourmet Genetics. Yolo County: Nonstop production of delicious snacking cherries.	Indet. Dark pink Cherry	Mid
Sweet Aperitif	Bright red fruits have exceptional flavor and very high levels of sugar (up to a Brix of 13), perfectly balanced with the right amount of acid to give it a complex, wine-like taste and tropical aroma. Plants are completely covered with bite-size, one-half oz. fruits. Bred by Mark Rowland, Gourmet Genetics.	Indet. Red Cherry	Mid
Talvez F1 [*]	Medium-size red fruit with yellow stripes, slightly flattened. Bright, sweet flavor and impressive shelf life. Productive, crack-resistant, and disease resistant. Bred by Fred Hempel, Bene Seeds.	Indet. Red, striped Medium	Mid
Tommy Toe [H]	Exceptionally vigorous and productive plants have high tolerance for heat stress and good disease resistance. The superb flavor of this 1 oz. red cherry tomato won it first place over a hundred other varieties in an Australian taste test. Early-1900s heirloom from the Ozark mountains. Yolo County: Good flavor at any stage of ripeness. A small tomato with big-tomato flavor.	Indet. Red Cherry	Mid
Woodle Orange [H, TT]	Tangerine-orange 10-16 oz. tomato with rich, complex flavor. Perfectly round shape and blemish-free. Heirloom from Iowa. Yolo County: Amazing flavor, heavy producer, big plant, handles heat well.	Indet. Orange Beefsteak	Mid-Late

Explanation of Terms

Early/Mid/Late Produces ripe fruit an average of less than 70 days/ 70-80 days/ more than 80 days after transplanting, respectively.

F1 F1 denotes hybrids, which are a cross between two or more plants. Seed saved from a hybrid variety or from cross-pollination will not reliably grow true to type.

Open-pollinated Seeds from open-pollinated (OP) varieties breed true, so they can be saved and used to reproduce the same tomato.

Heirloom An open-pollinated variety that has been passed down at least 50 years in a family or other group, or was commercially introduced before 1940.

Det. Determinate: Short, bushy plants with terminal blossom clusters (meaning the top of the stem is usually flowers, not foliage). Some produce fruits in a short time span while others may produce all season. Usually 4' high or less and may not need staking, and often can be grown in containers.

Indet. Indeterminate: Long vines with subterminal blossom clusters (meaning flowers occur along the sides of the stem), usually produce well until frost. The plant grows continually until it dies at the end of the season. Plants can get quite large and most often produce best when staked or grown in a wire cage.

Semidet. Semideterminate: Some seed sellers prefer the term "compact indeterminate." Plants usually stay under 5' high and may be suitable for containers, though they may get bushy. They generally produce throughout the season.

Brix A measure of sweetness. Brix of 1 is 1 gram of dissolved solids, mostly sugars, per 100 grams. Most tomatoes measure 5-12 Brix; maple syrup is 68. Sungold F1 tomatoes typically measure 9.5; grocery store tomatoes, 4-5. Exact rating from a particular garden depends on growing conditions.

Potato leaf Potato-leaf tomato varieties have broader leaves without the lobes and serrations found on regular-leaf tomatoes.

Wispy foliage Tomatoes with wispy foliage may seem droopy and sparse, but this graceful fernlike habit is normal for them. The leaves may be thinner than other varieties as well. Plant these varieties where they won't get the brunt of afternoon sun, especially if their fruit is not protected by enough leaf cover.