

58 Terrific Tomatoes from Wilson's Garden Center



Who else in Central Ohio would offer over 50 different kinds of tomatoes to enjoy this summer? Read through the descriptions and find your favorites; try some new ones, too. You may find a new taste treasure that will excite your palate and impress your friends. Gardening is an adventure. Trying something new and different adds spice to your life.

Beefmaster - a real mouth-watering, large, deep red, full-flavored tomato. Strong vines have hybrid vigor and yield large quantities of large beefsteak type tomatoes up to 2 lb. -80 days. (Considered non-acid)

Ball's Beefsteak - Plant produces good yields of big 14 oz red beefsteak tomatoes. Perfect sandwich tomato with old fashion flavor. Crack Resistant. Indeterminate. Disease Resistant. 76 days.

Bushsteak Hybrid - This surprisingly compact plant (20-24") is just loaded with large flavorful tomatoes. Combines big meaty fruit (8-12 oz.) and early maturity on a dwarf plant, perfect for a small garden and patio containers. Determinate. 65 days.

Better Boy - big meaty red fruits up to 1½ lb. in size. Disease resistant heavy yielding plants. Very popular.-74 days.

Better Bush - A Park Seed exclusive. Attractive, compact, stocky plants with the handsome appearance of a patio-type tomato. Big, luscious, 4 inch fruits that have real tomato flavor-juicy and meaty with high sugar content. Excellent for small gardens and containers.-68 days.

Big Beef - 1994 All America Selections Winner. Large 12 oz. tomatoes mature early considering the size of the fruit. Smooth red fruits are of high quality and excellent beefsteak flavor. Very disease resistant plants with hybrid vigor bear freely under adverse conditions. Excellent in tomato cages or staked.—73 days. (Considered non-acid)



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Big Boy-An old favorite from Burpee that lacks the disease resistance of newer hybrid varieties. Large 1 pound fruits have a terrific aroma.-78 days.

Big Mama - Produces heavy yields of 5" long by 3" wide red tomatoes. Tomatoes are very flavorful, very meaty, and have very few seeds. One of the best varieties for making Italian paste and sauce. Indeterminate. 80 days

Black Krim- Dark brown-red tomatoes are large, 10 to 12 ozs., and very richly flavored with just a hint of saltiness. Color is darker in hot weather, and fruit seems to set well even in the heat. Prone to cracking, but a very heavy producer. Heirloom from the Black Sea of Russia. Indeterminate. 75-90 days

Black Pearl - 'Black Pearl' is two different flavors in one cherry tomato. Enjoy right off the vine, but be sure to put a big bowlful in the refrigerator for a special treat. When chilled, 'Black Pearl' has a unique, extra sweet, 'Concord' grape flavor. Indeterminate vines produce 1 1/2", purplish black fruits in abundance until fall. 65 days.

Brandywine - An heirloom variety with very large pink skinned fruit and red flesh. A potato leaved plant that is not a heavy yielder but has exceptional flavor. No disease resistance so give it the best of care.—85 days.
(Considered non-acid)

Brandy Boy - A huge pink beefsteak with incredible heirloom flavor and very high yields. Produces loads of large pink fruits, up to 5 & 1/2 inches across, that ripen evenly, with soft heirloom texture, thin skin and that same incredible Brandywine flavor. Better yet the plants sport an upright more manageable growth habit. Indeterminate. 75-78 days.

Bush Early Girl -Tasty red fruits are even bigger than Early Girl, nearly 4 inches across. Compact space saving variety has hybrid vigor. Higher yielding than other compact varieties. 63 days.

Celebrity - This All America Selections Winner has been recommended by Wilson's for years. A fine, highly productive performer with firm, flavorful large 4 inch fruit. Very disease resistant vines with hybrid vigor are compact and easily grown. You can't go wrong with this one. All purpose variety and excellent for canning, too.—70 days.

Cherokee Purple - An heirloom variety rumored to be a descendant of a variety used by the Cherokee Indians. An odd looking tomato with medium-large with a pinkish purple color inside and out. A must-try variety and conversation piece. Not a great yielder with little disease resistance.-72 days



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Carolina Gold - Extra-large, smooth fruit brings sunny glow to salads and dishes. Firm, meaty flesh; sweet mild flavor! Determinate. Disease Resistant. 71 days.

Cupid - Vigorous vines bear hundreds of smooth, firm, very sweet grape tomatoes continuously over a long season. Holds well without bursting. Resists alternaria stem canker, gray leaf spot.

Delicious - Huge fruits with small seed cavities. This is an all meat tomato that has potential to grow 3 lb. or more - usually in the 1 lb. range, though. Grow this one if you are trying to grow the biggest tomato on the block. Excellent flavor. Not high yielding though. -77 days.

Early Doll (Fourth of July) - This very early 5-ounce fruit. Early Doll F1 is a bright red globe shaped tomato with excellent flavor. Every grower or gardener needs an early maturing variety like this one. An early tomato with flavor is a real find. 59 days. Also known as Fourth of July

Early Girl Improved-Very early, heavy crops of 4 to 6 oz. fruit with a lot of flavor and aroma. Rich red color and the vines have some disease resistance.—57 days.

First Lady II (VFNT)- Plant produces good yields of 5 oz red tomatoes. Tomatoes are very flavorful and turn red when mature. Excellent for salads and sandwiches. Crack Resistant. Disease Resistant: VFNTAS. Indeterminate. 66 days

Giant Valentine - Big 6-10-inch heart-shaped fruits. Considerably larger than similar varieties, with juicier flesh and better taste. A beautiful heirloom. Indeterminate, 73 days.

Golden Rave - Mini Roma-type tomatoes are golden yellow and have fantastic flavor. Just as meaty as a Roma, but with the sweet flavor of a grape tomato. Golden Rave is excellent for sauces and salsa, as well as eating fresh. Vigorous plants produce very large yields. Indeterminate. 65 days.

Great White - Heirloom variety. Beautiful, large white beefsteak tomato with sweet flavor and lots of juice. Fruit is larger than that of White Beauty. Vigorous plants have heavy foliage that provides good protection against sunscald on the fruit. Indeterminate. 85 days.

Green Zebra - Plant produces good yields of 3 oz green tomatoes with dark green stripes. Tomatoes have the old fashioned tomato flavor and stay green when mature. Excellent for salads, sandwiches, pickling, and sauces. A heirloom variety from the USA. The flesh is lime-emerald in color that has an invigorating lemon-lime flavor. 78 days



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Health Kick - A breakthrough in breeding, this tomato is actually healthier for you than others you can grow or buy. Packed with 50% more of the beneficial antioxidant 'lycopene' than normal tomatoes. The 4 oz fruits are juicy, plum-shaped, perfect for salads or fresh eating. Plants are strongly disease resistant and vigorous. Determinate.

Hillbilly (potato-leaf) - An Ohio heirloom beefsteak originally from West Virginia producing 1-2 lb. huge, heavily-ribbed, orange-yellow fruit with red mottled skin and red streaks within. Very sweet, fruity flavors. Low acid. Indeterminate. 85 days.

Japanese Black Trifele - This short potato leaf plant yields prolific quantities of 6 oz. fruit that looks like a beautiful mahogany-colored Bartlett pear with greenish shoulders. Very tasty flesh with a meaty core that produces luscious fruit all summer long. A work of art sliced out on a plate and a wonderful flavor that possesses an extraordinary rich and complex flavor. The Black Trifele is one of the blackest varieties available and is resistant to cracking. From Russia. 81 days

Jet Star -Highly recommended by Wilson's. This was our main variety when we grew tomatoes for our farm produce market. The disease resistant vines yield tremendous numbers of 8 oz. smooth crack-free tomatoes. Very pleasant low-acid flavor. Add lemon juice for canning. -72 days. (Low acid)

Juliet - All America Selections Winner for 1999. A tomato that produces huge clusters of up to 30 small oblong red cherry tomatoes each. The large disease resistant plants need to be staked and can yield up to 350 fruits per plant! Fruits average 1 oz. in size and sweet to the taste. You've got to try this one. -62 days

Laroma II -Exceptionally heavy yields of good flavored, 3 to 4 oz. thick, meaty paste tomatoes. Very popular for salads and sauces. Disease resistant compact plants. -62 days.

Lemon Boy -Unique lemon yellow colored fruit inside and out. Far from being sour, this variety has excellent mild non-acid flavored 6 oz. tomatoes that are smooth and heavily produced on large indeterminate disease resistant vines with hybrid vigor.—72 days. (Considered non-acid)

Marglobe Improved - Old time standard variety often used for canning. Developed in 1917 in New Jersey. 8 oz. fruits have small seed cavities. Not much disease resistance. In our opinion, there are at least 20 varieties on this list that are superior to this favorite, but not everybody agrees with us.—75 days.

Mortgage Lifter -This huge heirloom beefsteak (up to 4 pounds; average 2 1/2 pounds) consistently wins taste-tests. Developed in the 1930's by a gardener who planted the four biggest varieties he knew, and crossed one with pollen from the other three. He did this for six seasons and created a variety that produced immense,

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tasty fruit. He sold the plants for \$1 apiece, \$1,000 a year - and paid off his mortgage in six years.

Indeterminate. 85 days

Mountain Fresh Plus - Bred by North Carolina State Univ, this modern hybrid has many features that make it worth growing. The plants are compact and very disease resistant and resists blossom end rot, growing well with cages or stakes. Medium large (8 oz.) fruits are smooth and red with a good somewhat acid flavor. A superior canning or slicing variety. -79 days.

Mister Stripey - Mr. Stripey has a mild, low-acid flavor and intriguing color both sure to win praise. Plum-sized, bicolor fruits have yellow flesh and a pink center. Indeterminate. 80 DAYS. An English Heirloom variety

Napa Grape - A consistent top choice in taste tests, Napa Grape Hybrid has a higher sugar content than any other grape tomato. Enjoy these tasty treats in salads all summer long. Indeterminate. 65 days.

Old Fashion (Striped German) -This is an old hand-me-down heirloom variety that one of our customers have saved the seed for us to plant each year. Old Fashion is an unusually colored large yellow tomato with red streaks and has a delicious sweet mild flavor. The variety has little disease resistance and so-so yields, but the flavor and unusual appearance make it worth growing.-85 days. (Considered non-acid)

Old Time Tasty - Combines traditional flavor with an attractive, refined appearance. The slightly flattened and ribbed, smooth-skinned fruits are very juicy and fiery red with green shoulders at the top. This variety is perfect for slicing on sandwiches and burgers. 70 days.

Pineapple - Large beefsteak style tomato sometimes weighing up to two pounds. Ripens to a beautiful bright yellow, often with red stripes. This variety has a mild flavor and meaty flesh with relatively few seeds. Plants tend to be high yielding. Heirloom. 85 days

Pink Girl -This is the best pink tomato. Disease resistant plants bear large juicy fresh pink tomatoes with a delightfully mild flavor. They are smooth and attractive and continue to bear until frost.—76 days. (Considered non-acid)

Rutgers Select - Plant produces heavy yields of 7 oz red tomatoes. Tomatoes are very flavorful. Excellent for slicing, sauce, and paste. Good canning variety. Disease Resistant. Determinate. 73 days.

Steak Sandwich - These large, luscious beauties offer old-fashioned tomato taste for sandwiches and salads. They remain firm when ripe, so you can slip a slice into your favorite summer sandwich, BLT or burger and savor the rich, succulent, sweet taste. Indeterminate. 70 days.

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Stupice - From Czechoslovakia 'Stupice' is early bearing, productive, disease tolerant, and flavorful. It usually produces until frost. Fruits have a depth of flavor with a wonderful balance of sweetness and tartness. Juicy 2 oz. fruits are produced in clusters of 6 to 8 tomatoes. Indeterminate; 62 days; Heirloom

Sugary -The name says it all. The half-ounce dark pink fruit has a sugar content of 9.5%, higher than most others. The fruit is produced in clusters like grapes and can be eaten like them. 'Sugary' tomatoes have a distinct grape shape; they are oval with a pointed blossom end. 85 days.

Supersonic -This variety is very similar to Better Boy and Big Boy. It produces heavy yields of large, meaty tomatoes of excellent quality. Fruits are large (10 oz.), smooth, and quite crack free. -79 days.

Supersteak -This Burpee variety is a huge improvement over the old Beefsteak and is similar to Beefmaster. It produces high yields of large (2 lb.), excellent-tasting beefsteak type fruit. Very vigorous disease-resistant vines with hybrid vigor need staking.—80 days. (Considered non-acid)

Sun Sugar - A medium-sized, orange ripening cherry tomato, sought after for its intense sweet flavor. The fruits grow to a bit under an inch wide, with a thin skin that is very crack resistant. Sun Sugar plants fruit in huge quantities, with a single plant often bearing hundreds of fruits in a single season. Indeterminate. 62-67 Days

Supersweet 100—This large indeterminate plant yields an incredible number of the best tasting bite-sized cherry tomatoes. They're produced in clusters like grapes for the whole season and get high praise for their sweet flavor and high Vitamin C content. -70 days.

Super Tasty - Has a rich, tangy flavor and solid texture with deep red color inside and out. Great in large patio pots and small-space gardens, this variety requires minimal staking for support. 70 days

Sweet Baby Girl - Many sweet, dark red, 1 ounce, cherry tomatoes in clusters on short internodes. Compact, open plants are easy to harvest. The best cherry tomato yet for home growing. 65 days.

Sweet Chelsea - Large cherry tomato with sweet flavor and crack resistance. Plants are loaded with disease resistance, too. Vigorous vines yield heavily throughout the summer.-64 days.

Sweet Seedless - NEW! Burpee exclusive. Beyond the lack of seeds to digest, this tomato is first rate for taste. In fact, precisely because there are no seeds to store the sugars for later use, all the sweetness is immediately available for you to enjoy in every rich slice. This is a totally new tomato on every level – the perfect balance of flavor and sweetness, meat and gel, solid firmness and juiciness. Disease resistant. Indeterminate. 68 Days.



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Tomatillo - Sweet tangy flavor that is essential for authentic salsa and many southwestern dishes. Fruits, the size of a small tomato, are green when ripe, and are encased in papery husks. Prolific - 100 days.

Tomatoberry -There have been tomatoes shaped like cherries, grapes, and even pears -- why shouldn't strawberries have their day? Luckily, they picked an absolutely delicious variety -- Tomatoberry is so sweet and juicy that if you didn't know any better, you might just be fooled! Indeterminate; 65 days

Viva Italia Paste - Red hybrid Roma paste type. Very sweet meaty fruit that has high yields all summer. Disease resistant compact plants. Excellent for salads and sauces.-80 days.

Whopper Improved - A Park Seed exclusive. This variety is the standard for modern hybrids—heavy yielding, smooth, early, disease-resistant, tasty. What more could you want? Try this one on for size.-65 days.

Yellow Pear - Small yellow fruits are produced in amazing abundance. Excellent bite sized fruit combine well with red cherry types in salads. You only need one because they bear so heavily.-70 days.

Tomato Facts

Did you know that tomatoes are one of the healthiest vegetables we can eat? They're rich in p-coumaric acid and chlorogenic acid, which can attach to nitrates in our food, and flush them out of our system before they team up with aminos to form cancer-causing nitosamines. They are also good sources of Vitamin C, beta-carotene, and potassium, which can help protect against heart disease.

**Try black plastic mulch to grow a great crop of tomatoes. It is beneficial in maintaining soil temperatures and moisture as well as controlling weeds.

If you want to have healthy vines the whole season, spray with Daconil fungicide as the plants begin to flower and reapply weekly until the first fruit start to ripen. You will probably have your best crop ever, because your vines will last until frost.

Selection Tip: when choosing varieties, keep in mind that “determinates” ripen over 3-4 weeks on bushy vines that usually need no staking. “Indeterminate” vines continue to grow and produce fruit all season until frost. The large vines need support.