

## TOMATOES

Tomatoes are America's favorite vegetable. Finding your favorite varieties can take many happy seasons of gardening. But first, start with tried and true varieties, then find out what the old timers and neighbors like to grow. Read up on new introductions and old heirloom varieties. The sheer variety in fruit color, texture and flavor will keep you searching for years. Grafted tomatoes are a new and exciting trend.\*

Tomatoes are classified several ways. First is by use. Slicing for fresh eating or sandwiches, canning or tomato paste varieties (these are not so juicy). Then there are salad or snack tomatoes. These are small fruited, ideal for popping in your mouth or for use in a salad. Usually very sweet. There is one more class called heirloom tomatoes. These are old fashioned varieties, usually slicers, that are unique to a certain geographic area or time. Many have unique color, shape, flavor and texture.

The next way to classify tomatoes is by season length. Some tomato varieties ripen early and some during main season. If you are planting determinate varieties (explained later) stagger planting times 3 weeks apart to extend the harvest season.

Finally, tomatoes can be determinate or indeterminate. Determinate plants set fruit only once during the plants life and then are done for the season. They are usually shorter in stature, also. Indeterminate plants types continue to grow and produce fruit till frost, hence plants can get large and tall if staked or sprawl if left on the ground.

Start your tomatoes by direct seeding or by transplants bought at Oakland or grown at home from seed. Your garden soil should be rich and loamy. Take the time to prepare your soil, and you will be rewarded with a bountiful harvest. If you are planning to stake the plants, drive your stakes in before planting the tomatoes. This avoids root damage to the small plant. Try to water at the base of the plant to avoid water sitting on the leaves to long. Excess water promotes disease. If overhead watering is necessary, do it in the morning on sunny days.

Below are tomato varieties that Oakland has carried in the past and plan to carry this year. Remember, this list does not include the varieties of tomato seeds we carry. Also, our stock of tomato plants fluctuates wildly through 'Veggie Madness Time' (May), so it is all subject to availability.

\*Grafted tomato varieties offer improved disease resistance and better quality and quantity of fruit. A common practice in Asia and southern Europe for a century, this practice is just gaining ground in the U.S. Many heirloom varieties that have tasty fruit, but poor yields or disease problems benefit from grafting. Oakland offers grafted varieties when we can find them. Plants are expensive.



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**TOMATOES**

*Tomatoes in the Garden*

Variety	Days to Ripeness	Fruit Size (oz.)	Growth	Fruit Color	Use	Comments
Amish Paste	85	6	IND	RED	PASTE	
Aunt Ruby's German Green	79	16	IND	GREEN	SLICER	HEIRLOOM
Beef Steak	100	15-32	IND	RED	SLICER	
Better Boy	72	12	IND	RED/GR	SLICER	
Beefmaster	85	16	IND	RED	SLICER	
Big Boy	78	16	IND	R	SLICER	
Big Girl	78	10	IND	R	SLICER	
				BROWN/		
Black Krim	80	6	IND	RD	SLICER	HEIRLOOM
Brandywine	78	12	IND	DK PINK	SLICER	HEIRLOOM
Better Bush	68	10	IND	RED	SLICER	EARLY
Bush Champion	68	8	DET	RED	SLICER	EARLY
Celebrity	70	7	IND	RED/GR	SLICER	
Cherokee Purple	85	15	IND	DP. RED	SLICER	
Delicious	77	20	IND	RED	SLICER	HEIRLOOM
Early Girl	54	5	IND	RED/GR	SLICER	EARLY
First Pik	58	10	DET	RED	SLICER	EARLY
Fourth of July	49	4	IND	RED	SL/SALAD	EARLY
Golden Boy	80	8	IND	YELLOW	SLICER	LOW ACID
Golden Girl	70	8	DET	ORANGE	SLICER	
Green Zebra	78	6	IND	GREEN	SLICER	HEIRLOOM
Grape	65	2-Jan	IND	RED	SAL/SNACK	SWEET
Heirloom Rainbow	72	5 TO 14		MIX	MIX	HEIRLOOM
Hillbilly	80	12	IND	YEL/RED	SLICER	HEIRLOOM
Health Kick	74	6	DET	RED	CAN/SALAD	HI YIELD
Jet Star	72	8	IND	RED	SLICER	LOW ACID
Juliet	60	1	IND	RED	SNACK	SWEET
La Roma	80	4	DET	RED	PASTE	
Lemon Boy	72	6	IND	YEL	SLICER	
Lemon Cherry	58	2-Jan	IND	YEL	SNACK	SWEET
Legend	68	10	DET	RED	SLICER	EARLY
Marglobe	75	4	DET	RED	CAN/SL	
Mortgage Lifter	80	20	IND	RED	BIG SLICER	HEIRLOOM
Mountain Pride	78	6	DET	RED/GR	SLICER	
Mr. Stripey	80	20	IND	RED/YEL	SLICER	SWEET
Old German	72	16	IND	RED	SLICER	HEIRLOOM
Old Time Tasty	70	6	IND	RED	SLICER	
Orange Oxheart	90	20	IND	ORANGE	SLICER	HEIRLOOM
Patio	70	2	DET	RED	SL/SALAD	COMPACT
Pink Girl	76	8	IND	PINK	SLICER	



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# Tomatoes in the Garden

## Tomato Varieties, cont'd

Variety	Days to Ripeness	Fruit Size (oz.)	Growth	Fruit Color	Use	Comments
Red Brandywine	90	10	IND	DEEP RED	SLICER	HEIRLOOM
Roma	76	2	IND	RED	PASTE	
Red Cherry	70	2-Jan	IND	RED	SNACK	SWEET
Rutgers	74	7	DET	RED	SLICER	HEIRLOOM
Sun Sugar	62	1	IND	YEL	SNACK	SWEET
Super Sweet 100	65	1	IND	RED	SNACK	SWEET
Sweet 100	65	1	IND	RED	SNACK	SWEET
Tomatillo	67	3	IND	GREEN	UNIQUE	MEX
Top Gun	77	8	DET	RED	SLICER	
Willamette	70	6	DET	RED	SLICER	

## Tomato Varieties and Uses

(Not all varieties may be available)

### Low-Acid

Golden Boy  
Jet Star  
Sweet 100

### Slicing

Better Boy  
Beef Master  
Beef Steak  
Big Boy  
Big Girl  
Better Bush  
Bush Champion  
Celebrity  
Early Girl  
First Pick  
Fourth of July  
Golden Girl  
Legend

### Slicers, cont'd

Lemon Boy  
Marglobe  
Old Time Tasty  
Patio  
Pink Girl  
Top Gun  
Willamette

### Canning/paste

Amish Paste  
Early Girl  
Health kick  
Marglobe  
LaRoma  
Roma

### Cherry/Grape/Salad/Snack

Grape  
Healthkick  
Juliet  
Lemon Cherry  
Patio  
Red Cherry  
Sun Gold  
Sun Sugar  
Super Sweet 100  
Sweet 100  
Sweet Million

### Heirloom (Most are slicers)

Amish Paste  
Aunt Ruby's German Green  
Black Krim  
Brandywine  
Cherokee Purple  
Delicious  
Heirloom Rainbow Mix  
Hillbilly  
Mountain Pride  
Mortgage Lifter Mr.  
Stripey  
Old German  
Orange Oxheart  
Red Brandywine