



Garden Notes

GN 147

TOMATOES: SUGGESTED VARIETIES FOR THE SACRAMENTO AREA

Tomatoes win “most popular” in the home, summer vegetable garden by a landslide. Each gardener, however, has an opinion about the most reliable tomatoes (based on flavor, yield, and disease resistance) to plant each spring. Below are the tried-and-true tomato varieties UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County have had the best results growing in their home gardens and at the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center.

Generally speaking, heirloom tomato varieties are more than 50 years old, open-pollinated, and often their seeds have been passed down by generations of family members. Hybrid tomato cultivars are newer (post 1950) and the result of crossing different parents to achieve an offspring with better disease resistance and higher yields, but not necessarily better flavor than heirlooms.

CHERRY/GRAPE TOMATOES

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| Black Cherry (black/brown, heirloom) | Sun Cherry (red, hybrid) |
| Chadwick Cherry (red, heirloom) | Sun Gold (yellow-orange, hybrid) |
| Green Doctors (olive green, open pollinated) | Sun Sugar (orange, hybrid) |
| Green Grape (greenish yellow, heirloom) | Super Sweet 100 (red, hybrid) |
| Juliet (red, hybrid) | Sweet 100 (red, hybrid) |
| Large Red Cherry (red, heirloom) | Sweet Million (red, hybrid) |

Cherry and grape tomatoes are bite-sized for snacking and a staple of summer salads.

PASTE TOMATOES

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| Fresh Salsa (red, hybrid) | Orange Banana (orange, heirloom) |
| Goldman's Italian-American (red, open pollinated) | Super Marzano (red, hybrid) |
| Italian Gold (yellow-orange, hybrid) | Yaqui (red, hybrid) |

Paste tomatoes are used for sauces, catsup, tomato paste, and canning.

HYBRID SLICING TOMATOES

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|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ace (red) | Lemon Boy (yellow) |
| Better Boy (red) | Oregon Spring (red) |
| Big Beef (red) | Park's Whopper (red) |
| Brandy Boy (pink) | Super Fantastic (red) |
| Celebrity (red) | Tye-Dye (yellow-orange and red) |
| Dinner Plate (red) | Whopper VFN (red) |
| Early Girl (red) | |

Slicers are larger than grape, cherry, and paste tomatoes. Some can weigh in excess of 2 pounds and would be classified as beefsteaks. They are often sliced and used in sandwiches.

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HEIRLOOM SLICING TOMATOES

Abe Lincoln (red)	Kellogg's Breakfast (orange)
Amana Orange (yellow-orange)	Lillian's Yellow Heirloom (yellow)
Aunt Ruby's German Green (green)	Marianna's Peace (pink)
Azoychka (yellow)	Mortgage Lifter (pink)
Caspian Pink (pink)	Omar's Lebanese (pink)
Cherokee Purple (purple/black)	Paul Robeson (black)
Costoluto Genovese (red)	Pineapple (yellow with red streaking)
Eva Purple Ball (dark pink)	Redfield Beauty (pink)
Evergreen (green)	Rose (deep pink)
Gold Medal (yellow-orange with red streaks)	Rose de Berne (pink)
Hawaiian Pineapple (yellow-orange)	Sarah Black (pink/purple)
Jaune Flamme (orange)	Virginia Sweets (yellow with red stripes)
Julia Child (deep pink)	

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