



UC Master Gardener Program  
San Mateo & San Francisco Counties



**Tomato Varieties**

**Spring Garden Market 2017**  
San Mateo County Event Center  
2495 South Delaware Street, San Mateo

<b>CLASSICS</b>		<i>Smooth, round tomatoes that are larger than cherry tomatoes and smaller than beefsteaks. Good all-around tomatoes.</i>			
Variety Name	Description and comments	Color	Type	Days	Zone
<b>Brandywine Organic</b> (OP)	The large fruits, often over 1 lb., have a deep pink skin and smooth red flesh. The medium-tall, potato-leaf plant is best staked or caged. Large fruit, often over 1 lb.	Pink / Red	Indet	78	A / B
<b>Carmello</b> (OP)	Bears large crops of heavy, juicy tomatoes with flavor that just doesn't stop, even in cooler weather. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Red	Indet	70-75	A/B/C
<b>Cherokee Purple</b> (Heirloom)	Beautiful rose-purple fruit has sweet, rich, complex flavor. Consistently productive. Fruit 10-12 oz. Heirloom from Tennessee.	Rose-Purple	Indet	80	A / B
<b>Chocolate Stripes</b> (OP)	Large, regular-leaf tomato plants that yield a plentiful crop of 3-4", mahogany colored fruit with dark, olive green-stripping. Fruits have delicious, complex, rich, sweet, earthy tomato flavors. Produces well into the autumn.	Dark Red / Green	Indet	79	A / B
<b>Defiant PHR</b> (F1)	<b>High resistance to late blight</b> and intermediate resistance to <b>early blight</b> combined with great flavor. The 6-8 oz., globe-shaped fruit are smooth and medium-firm with good texture. Deep red internal and external color. High-yielding, medium-sized plants are widely adaptable.	Red	Det	70	A / B
<b>Early Wonder</b> (OP)	This extra-early maturing, compact variety makes an impressive crop of round, dark pink tomatoes with an average weight of 6 oz. They have excellent, full tomato flavor. Good for containers. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Dark Pink	Det	55	A/B/C
<b>Golden Queen</b> (Heirloom)	<b>Disease resistant</b> heirloom introduced by Livingston in 1882. Yields large, 8-12 ounce, waxy, yellow tomatoes with mild yet superb sweet flavors. A wonderful, very flavorful tomato.	Yellow-Orange	Indet	75	A / B

<b>Green Zebra (OP)</b>	A unique and delicious salad tomato with 3 oz. green fruits ripen to amber green with darker green stripes. The light green flesh is very flavorful, sweet, yet zingy. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Green	Indet	75	A/B/C
<b>New Girl (F1)</b>	First early variety, great taste. Fruits average 4-6 oz., better tasting and more <b>disease resistant</b> than Early Girl. Holds better than First Lady II. Widely adapted.	Red	Indet	62	A / B
<b>Orange Blossom (F1)</b>	The best early orange tomato! The medium-firm, globe-shaped fruits average 6-7 oz., have a nice texture and are mildly flavored, balanced with a little acidity. Developed by Dr. Brent Loy, Univ. of New Hampshire.	Orange	Det	60	A / B
<b>Polbig (F1)</b>	High yields of very good tasting, meaty, 6-8 oz. globe shaped fruit. Uniform ripening time. Excellent deep red internal and external color. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Red	Det	60	A/B/C
<b>Stupice (Heirloom)</b>	Czech origin, with potato-type leaf, very early, cold tolerant, highly productive, small 2-3", very flavorful fruit. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas</b>	Red	Indet	52	A/B/C
<b>Taxi</b>	The best early yellow tomato! Meaty, 4-6 oz., baseball-sized, lemon-yellow tomatoes. Smooth, blemish-free globes with a small stem scar. Attractive, sweet-flavored, and easy to grow. Concentrated early set. Compact, dark green vine. Widely adapted. Very prolific!	Yellow	Det	64	A / B
<b>Valley Girl (F1)</b>	Sets fruit under heat or cold stress. This productive, flavorful tomato has been a top yielder in numerous areas. Maturing early, the medium globe-shaped red fruits are uniform ripening, firm, smooth, and crack tolerant. Our best early variety for fruit set under temperature stress. Widely adapted. High resistance to F1, F2, and verticillium wilt.	Red	Det	65	A / B

<b>PASTES</b>	<i>Meaty tomatoes with little seed gel. Great for slicing in salads, canning, or processing into tomato paste or sauce. Usually elongated or plum shaped</i>				
<b>Variety Name</b>	<b>Description and comments</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Zone</b>

<b>Burpee Roma</b>	Compact and prolific producing 2 oz paste type fruits with meaty interiors and few seeds. Great for canning and sauces.	Bright Red	Det	78	A / B
<b>Mama Leone</b>	This excellent, large pointed plum tomato comes from Italy via a family who immigrated to New York. You can expect a large harvest of these 5 to 6 oz. bright red tomatoes that are meaty with very few seeds. These are the perfect tomatoes to turn into a simmering pot of sauce full of rich tomato goodness.	Bright Red	Indet	75	A / B
<b>San Marzano (Heirloom)</b>	From Italy. A preferred standard with Italian farmers. Compact and prolific producer of bright-red, slim, 2-3 inch plum-type fruit over a long season. A paste tomato with a pointy end, heavy walls and little juice, so it's great for a delicious sauce! Crack resistant.	Bright Red	Semi-Det	78	A / B

<b>BEEFSTEAKS</b>		<i>Generally large to very large tomatoes, usually somewhat irregular in shape, often taking longer to mature. These are the ones to brag about!</i>			
Variety Name	Description and comments	Color	Type	Days	Zone
<b>Black Krim</b> (Heirloom)	Dark brown-red tomatoes are large, 10-12 oz., 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. Some cracking possible, but a very heavy producer. Also suitable for container/patio gardening. Heirloom from the Black Sea region of Russia.	Black	Indet	75-90	A / B
<b>Marvel Stripe</b> (Heirloom)	This heirloom variety haws become one of gardeners' favorite bicolored tomatoes because of its beauty, size, and taste. Large fruits are streaked with ruby red and have a sweet, fruity taste. Large harvests on vigorous vines.	Yellow-Orange	Indet	85	A / B
<b>Paul Robeson</b> (Heirloom)	One of the most highly regarded black tomatoes. This one features medium sized deep maroon fruits that are free of most blemishes and cracking. Their flavor is complex, sweet yet tangy, and characteristic of that distinctive richness that makes black tomatoes special. Russian heirloom. <b>Good choice for cool/foggy areas.</b>	Black	Indet	75	A/B/C
<b>Pruden's Purple</b>	Often favorably compared with the illustrious Brandywine, the gold standard of heirloom tomatoes. With dark pinkish-purple skin and potato plant style leaves, this widely adapted heirloom produces large, slightly flattened 1 lb. fruits with firm, meaty, crimson flesh and few seeds.	Red	Indet	77	A / B
<b>Striped German</b>	The flat, medium to large, variably ribbed-shoulder tomatoes are shaded yellow and red. The marbled interior looks beautiful sliced. Complex, fruity flavor and smooth texture. Medium-tall vines bear 12+ oz. fruit.	Pink-Yellow	Indet	78	A / B
<b>Tangerine</b> (Heirloom)	Deep yellow-orange, large beefsteak fruit is shaped like a tangerine. The texture is meaty and the flavor is sweet and rich. This variety is a heavy producer!	Yellow-Orange	Indet	80-85	A / B
<b>Virginia Sweets</b> (Heirloom)	This heirloom variety is one of the best tasting, best producing gold-red bi-colors. The tomatoes are stunningly beautiful and enormous, weighing at least 1 lb. each. Golden yellow beefsteaks are colored with red stripes that develop a ruby blush on top of the golden fruit. Flavor is sweet, rich and harvests are abundant.	Yellow-Red	Indet	80	A / B

<b>CHERRIES</b>		<i>Small, bite-size tomatoes, great for salads and snacking. Kids and adults love them!</i>			
<b>Variety Name</b>	<b>Description and comments</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Zone</b>
<b>Black Cherry (OP)</b>	Black cherry tomatoes are sweet and robust. The round fruits are almost black in color. The flavor is dynamic - much like an heirloom. High yielding on vigorous tall plants. Indeterminate. Organically grown. Sweet and robust. Good choice for cool, foggy areas.	Almost Black	Indet	64	A/B/C
<b>Ildi (Heirloom)</b>	The earliest, highest-yielding grape tomato in our trials. Producing 6-ft., indeterminate, regular-leaf, vigorous, prolific tomato plants that yield HUGE amounts of 1-inch, SWEET SWEET, bright-yellow, oval (with occasional pear-shaped fruits), 'grape' tomatoes with up to 75 Tomatoes in Every Bunch!, Ildi is often sold commercially in farmer's markets as Yellow Grape. These yummy tomatoes usually produce till frost. A great cherry tomato choice for serving in salads or snacking off the vine, very sweet – like eating candy.	Bright Yellow	Indet	54	A / B
<b>Indigo Blue Berries</b>	This is an amazing cherry tomato with very high levels of anthocyanin that show up as beautiful deep purple skin. Unripe fruit are amethyst colored, but ripen to almost black with a bit of brick red on the bottom. They have a delicious, plum-like flavor and are quite easy to grow. Size 1 to 2 oz tomatoes.	Deep Purple to Black	Indet	75	
<b>Jaune Flamme (OP, Heirloom)</b>	These beautiful orange salad tomatoes are very juicy and have a good, sweet flavor with fruity overtones. Tomatoes weigh 2 to 3 oz. and are a lovely persimmon orange color both inside and out. Extremely productive heirloom from France. Good choice for cool foggy areas. Good in salads or off the vine.	Persimmon / Orange	Indet	70	A/B/C
<b>Juliet (Hybrid)</b>	Elongated cherry tomatoes grow in grape-like clusters and really load up on vigorous vines. The one-ounce fruit has red, glossy skin and wonderful sweet flavor. As a bonus, the fruit is crack-resistant and holds on the vine better than most cherries. Expect high yields from plants that are tolerant to late blight and leaf spot. Sweet flavor. Good in salads or off the vine.	Glossy Red	Indet	60	A/B/C
<b>Mountain Magic (VFF / HV)</b>	A cross between a large-fruited tomato and a very sweet grape tomato, is similar to the cultivar “Campari” found in specialty markets. Abundant long clusters of 2 oz., round to deep round red tomatoes are crack resistant, so they hold up very well after harvest. Their wonderful flavor combines bold acid perfectly balanced with a generous amount of sugar, adding up to a real taste treat. Bold acid perfectly balanced with sugar Good in salads or off the vine. Good choice for cool, foggy areas. Resistant to early and late blight.	Deep Red	Indet	72	A/B/C

<b>Pink Bumble Bee (OP)</b>	Excellent sweet flavor. Pink Bumble Bee is an alluring combination of light pinks, yellows and oranges and is great in a mix with the other Artisan varieties. 20-25 gm. fruits. Organically grown.	Pink w/ yellow/ orange stripes	Indet	70	A / B
<b>Red Grape</b>	Long, grape-like clusters of brilliant red elongated cherry tomatoes have earned this variety its name. Very sweet, complex flavor is delicious and has made these tomatoes a favorite of people everywhere. Vigorous vines are very productive, but none of these delectable little morsels will go to waste. Their taste is addictive! Crack-resistant and tolerant to heat and a number of tomato diseases.	Deep Red	Indet	60	A / B
<b>Red Pear (Heirloom)</b>	One of the oldest American heirlooms dating back to the 1700's. Big, prolific, regular leaf, sprawling plant produces hundreds of cute, deep-red, 1/2" x 1 1/2" pear-shaped fruits with wonderfully sweet and juicy flesh.	Deep Red	Indet	78	A / B
<b>Supersweet 100's (Hybrid)</b>	A reliable cherry tomato with prolific yields of great tasting, 15-20 gm. fruits produced in large clusters. Widely adapted. High resistance to fusarium wilt and verticillium wilt. Indeterminate.	Deep Red	Indet	60	A / B
<b>Sun Gold (Hybrid) (F1)</b>	Exceptionally sweet, bright tangerine-orange cherry tomatoes. Vigorous grower, tall plants need staking or caging, bear long clusters of fruit. Produces 15-20 gm. fruits.	Tan- gerine/ Orange	Indet	57	A/B/C
<b>Sweet Chelsea (VFFNT) (HY)</b>	Jumbo-sized cherry tomatoes with extra sweet taste resist cracking better than the fruit of Sweet 100. Fifteen to 20 fruits per cluster. Vigorous vines, tolerant to 10 different diseases, should be staked or caged. Extra sweet taste. Good choice for cool, foggy areas.	Bright Red	Indet	67	A/B/C
<b>Yellow Pear (Heirloom)</b>	Plant produces HUGE amounts of big clusters of small 1-1/2 inch, bright-yellow, pear-shaped tomatoes that are low in acid and have mild fruity sweet flavors. Delightful. "Like eatin' candy." Great for eating fresh in salads. Very popular market tomato. Disease resistant.	Bright Yellow	Indet	70	A / B

## Definitions and Symbols Key

### Tomato Types

**Classic** – Generally round & smooth, ranging from medium-small to medium-large in size.

Sometimes called main crop or slicing tomatoes.

**Beefsteak** – Generally large to very large, usually somewhat irregular in shape, often later to mature.

**Paste** – Generally elongated shapes and often meatier with less seed gel, hence good for processing as sauce & paste.

**Cherry** – Small, bite-size tomatoes.

### Growth Habits

**Det** – Determinate. The plant grows to a certain point, then stops and sets fruit which ripen in a short, concentrated harvest. Height is often 4' or less.

**Indet** – Indeterminate. Also called vining tomatoes, the plant grows continuously until it dies, continuing to flower & set tomatoes until the end. Can get quite large, at least 5', often more.

**Semi** – Semi-indeterminate. Larger than determinate but not as large as indeterminate. About 4'.

**DwInd.** – Dwarf indeterminate. Short & bushy like determinates, but keep producing indefinitely like indeterminates. A new category.

### Seed Types

**OP** – Open-pollinated. Seeds from open-pollinated varieties can be saved because they will produce plants and fruit that are identical to their parent. All heirlooms are OP.

**Hybrid** – Seeds cannot be saved because they will not come true. Hybrid seeds can only be bought from a seed company who produces it by crossing particular parent plants.

**Heirloom** – Always open-pollinated, therefore seeds can be saved. Heirlooms have generally been saved and passed on by generation after generation in some family or community who would select the best plants to save seeds from.

### Key to disease resistance and/or tolerance

**V** – Verticillium wilt tolerance

**F1** – Fusarium wilt (race 1) tolerance

**F2** – Fusarium wilt (race 2) tolerance

**FF** – Fusarium wilt (race 1& 2) tolerance

**N** – Nematodes tolerance

**St** – Stemphyllium tolerance

**A** – Alternaria stem canker tolerance

**T** – Tobacco mosaic virus tolerance

Note: Only hybrids list disease resistance because seed companies pay to have the seed tested and certified. Heirlooms may well be resistant also.

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### San Mateo / San Francisco Zones

#### Zone A

Roughly equivalent to Sunset Zones 14 to 16 – includes San Carlos, Redwood City, Portola Valley, Woodside, Atherton, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto & La Honda.

Characterized by hot summers and cool winters. Zone A is considered climatically favorable for fruit, nuts, and berry production. Summers are long and hot enough for maturation of most fruits. Some frost protection may be needed in the coldest locations in the zone. All varieties, except those with very high chill requirements (over 1,000 hours) can be expected to perform well.

#### Zone B

Roughly equivalent to Sunset Zone 16 – includes Millbrae, San Mateo, Hillsborough, Burlingame, Belmont, & Foster City. Warm summers and mild to cool winters characterize this zone. Moderate chill (400 to 700 hours) or low chill (less than 400 hours) varieties should be selected. Early or midseason ripening varieties do well.

#### Zone C

Equivalent to Sunset Zone 17 – includes San Francisco, South San Francisco, Brisbane, Colma, Daly City, San Bruno, Pacifica, Half Moon Bay & San Gregorio. Coastal fog and wind dominate much of this zone in the summer months. Variety selection is limited in zone C because of the characteristically moderate summers and winters. Too little winter chill and not enough summer heat prevents proper fruit development of many varieties. Low chill (less than 400 hours) and early ripening varieties should be selected.

### Master Gardener Helpline:



*For advice or more information:*  
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