



## 2014 Tomato Tasting Plant List

**Use this list as a source of inspiration from Triangle Gardener author, Brie Arthur, for planting tomatoes and then throwing an edible garden party later in the summer. Here's what Brie is planting this season.**

### **New for 2014:**

**Orange Icicle** (85 days) Sweet, rich and flavorful with strong citrus overtones made this Jere's favorite eating variety last season. We just couldn't get enough of the sweet, luscious, glowing orange icicle-like fruit that are like an extra long paste tomato. This variety also makes a lovely orange ketchup and a superb salsa. It was a definite winner, and plants were quite productive. In our opinion, this is some of the Ukraine's finest tomato breeding. Fruit have relatively few seeds.

**Rosso Sicilian** (80 days). Indeterminate. Deeply ribbed, intensely red fruits reach up to 5 ounces. Firm, solid flesh and somewhat hollow seed cavity make this a star for stuffing or paste, but the ribbing also gives slices a scalloped appearance which is lovely on a plate. First grown in this country by Ann Fuller of Mitchell, Indiana, who received seed from a Sicilian man in 1987. Richly flavored, just as the Italians like their tomatoes, and stunningly beautiful!

**White Beauty** (80 days) Indeterminate. Parchment-white tomatoes are extra smooth and beautiful. Renowned for their sweet, citrus taste that is richer and more complex than many white types. This variety is perfect for making a delicious white sauce or for eating fresh out of hand. In 1927 Isbell's Seed Co., of Jackson, Michigan, said that this was the best white variety that they had ever grown. Some sources say it may have been introduced as early as 1850. This eight-ounce variety is a wonderful piece of American history that is just too great to be lost. Chefs and market gardeners, take notice!

**Emerald Evergreen** (80 days) Medium-large fruit that stay "evergreen." This heirloom variety was introduced by Glecklers Seedsmen around 1950. The large plants set heavy yields of these beauties, which have a lovely lime-green color. The flavor is rich and superbly sweet. It's one of the best. A popular market variety, now being sold in many upscale stores. This should be the official tomato for the Green Party.

**Chili Verde** A far-out and really cool tomato developed by Tom Wagner, who also bred the 'Green Zebra' and many other great varieties. This one is especially fascinating, with its amazing, pointed pepper shape and the mellow green skin, nearly like a green chili. The flavor is also good, strong and earthy, perfect for canning or for making green ketchup! This is one of the few green paste tomatoes and, like most paste types, this one has few seeds. That made seed collecting a challenge, but fortunately this variety really produced, right up till frost. Plants are really vigorous with thick stems and large sturdy.

**Blush** (60-70 days) Indeterminate. Stunning "Blushed" in red and gold combine with a translucent quality to give these elongated cherries serious visual appeal! The fruits, similar in size and shape to large olives, score high in taste tests. Blush was selected by eight-year-old Alex Hempel from two of his favorite tomatoes, and is an ancestor of the Bumble Bee series! Outstanding!

**Orange Banana** (80-85 days) Unique, orange, banana-shaped paste tomatoes that are bursting with fruity sweetness. Perfect for drying, canning, and paste. Also delicious fresh and great for specialty markets. Orange color is rare in paste tomatoes.

**Ten Fingers of Naples "Dix Doights de Naples"** (75 days) Determinate. A paste or canning type that produces huge yields of elongated, pointed fruit reaching 5-6 inches in length, weighing to 3 ounces. Fruits are produced in bunches, giving rise to fanciful comparison to hands! The flavor is much superior to many modern types, being sweet and rich. This fine variety is from Naples, Italy.

**Black Icicle** Stunning, perfectly shaped, deep purplish-brown fruit that are almost black. A great variety for both home gardeners and chefs. This tomato has the incredible rich taste that is in many of the large, dark beefsteak types: sweet, rich with earthy overtones. This variety has so much potential for introduction commercially and was among our best tasting varieties last season. Another variety we are introducing from the Ukraine along with its other jewel-toned icicle sisters.

**Green Sausage** (86 days) Indeterminate. The latest "Must Have". It is simply outstanding! At last a banana-shaped paste tomato that is lime green and yellow striped when ripe! The flavor is rich, tangy and sweet. This will be a hot item for high-priced, groovy markets. So cool when mixed with Orange, White, Yellow and Red Striped paste

types. Short, bushy plants produce these 4-inch long fruit in abundance.

**Dixie Golden** (85 days) A huge, lemon-yellow beefsteak-type fruit, often with some blushing at the blossom end. The mild and sweet fruits often reach 2 lbs! Reputed to carry some disease-resistance. Old Amish type grown and preserved since at least as early as the 1930's. Very productive, as Amish-held varieties tend to be; deserves to be much more widely grown.

**Amana Orange** (75-80 days) Big, 1-lb., glowing orange beefsteaks have an intense full flavor--that most tomatoes don't match! This very attractive heirloom tomato is named for the Amana Colonies, in Amana, Iowa.

**Peppermint** A lovely heirloom from the mountains around Crab Orchard, Tennessee. This variety produces large 1-lb tomatoes that are beautifully striped with red and orange. The flavor is sweet and mild, perfect for eating like fruit. This hard-to-find variety is both attractive and delicious. We had some plants produce solid red fruit, but selected only for bi-colored fruit, so you may occasionally still get a plant with red fruit.

**White Queen** (70-75 days) The favorite white variety of many tomato collectors, this heirloom is said to have been introduced in 1882 by A.W. Livingston, though many people question the exact date of introduction. 4-8 oz. fruit have one of the best flavors of all tomatoes, being fragrant, fruity and intensely sweet. It's creamy white in color and very attractive. A productive variety that has become very rare.

**Pork Chop** (75-85 days) Indeterminate. While most "yellow" tomatoes are actually orange, this is a true yellow that starts off yellow with green stripes that ripen to gold. The medium sized, slightly flattened beefsteaks have sweet tomato flavor with hints of citrus. Wild Boar farmer Brad Gates says it is the "best yellow I have ever had." Select seed, grown by Brad.

**Tasmanian Blushing Yellow** (85 days) Unusual yellow fruit, 5-6 ounces or occasionally larger; sometimes a trace of pink inside. Silky flesh. Very sweet, pronounced tomato flavor, yet mild like most yellows.

**Golden King of Siberia** This tomato is one of the real favorites here. Big, lemon-yellow fruit are a delightful heart shape. The flesh is smooth, creamy and has a nicely balanced sweet taste. I always find myself "snacking" on these one-pound beauties. Plants are very productive and seem to have some disease resistance. Thanks to Russia for this really great yellow type.

**Large Red** This pre-1830 variety was documented as being grown in Hancock, Mass., by the Shakers in the 1830's. In 1865 Fearing Burr stated, from the time of

introduction...the large red was almost the only kind cultivated, or even commonly known." Unique, 12-oz. fruit are deeply fluted and have a sweet, rich tomato flavor. A rare treasure for historic gardeners. Photo by Bill Mordecai of Rogersville, AL.

**Costoluto Genovese** The fluted, old Italian favorite that has been around since the early 19th century. Fruit are rather flattened and quite attractive with their deep ribbing. This variety is a standard in Italy for both fresh eating and preserving; known for its intensely flavorful, deep red flesh. This variety has also become very popular with chefs in this country.

**Uncle Mark Bagby** (75 days) Brought to western Kentucky from Germany in 1919 by Mark Bagby and grown today by one of his grandnieces, this tall and vigorous potato-leaved variety produces 8-to 12-oz pink fruit, and some say it out-performs Brandywine in warmer climates.

**Pink Accordion** Truly unique, large pink fruit is ruffled like an accordion. Very attractive-- one of the most beautiful I have seen. Perfect for specialty markets, the cut slices are stunning. This tomato is semi-hollow, so it is excellent for stuffing; the flavor is sweet and mild.

**Tlacacula Pink** (75-85 days) A unique tomato collected by a friend in Tlacalula, Mexico; the pear-shaped fruit have deep ribs and ruffles that give them a distinctive look. They have a mild, sweet, pink flesh and pink skin with gold-splotched shoulders. A rare tomato grown in Mexico for several generations.

**Pink Brandywine** The most popular heirloom vegetable! A favorite of many gardeners; large fruit with superb flavor. A great potato-leaved variety from 1885! Beautiful pink fruit up to 1-1/2 lbs. each!

## **Favorites from years past:**

**German Orange Strawberry** (75 days) Brilliant orange, oxheart fruits have a pronounced point at the blossom end, giving them one of the most perfect heart shapes of any tomato variety known. The fruits sometimes reach a pound in weight. The flavor of the meaty fruits is robust, complex and surprisingly tart for an orange variety. Few seeds and solid flesh make this variety good for canning or sauce. Introduced by Dr. Carolyn Male via Seed Savers in 1995.

**Dr Wyche's Yellow** (80 days) This heirloom was introduced to Seed Savers Exchange by the late Dr. John Wyche, who at one time owned the Cole Brothers Circus and used the manure of elephants to fertilize his heritage gardens. The 1 lb fruit is solid

and smooth; their color is a glowing tangerine-orange that always stands out in the kitchen or off the vine. One of the best heirloom orange types for market, with its smooth texture and tropical, sweet taste.

**Black Krim Tomato** (75 days) Dark red-purple fruit, rich sweet flavor. One of the best. It always places high in tomato taste trials. It's very juicy. An heirloom from Russia with very unique looking, large fruit. I really like the wonderful flavor. It's popular at many markets on the West Coast; also a favorite of many fine chefs.

**The Dutchman** (90 days) Introduced by the legendary Merlin W. Gleckler of Glecklers Seedsmen (who was one of the first rare seed dealers). Their 1958 catalog states, "Here is an extremely old, large-fruited pink-skinned tomato. It is practically extinct as far as securing seed. In fact, it is doubtful if seed has ever been sold by any seedsmen. Only by handing down by generations of one family has this tomato existed." The pink-red fruit are very large, up to 3 lbs or more. Very sweet.

**Black Early** A fairly early, black variety from France that is of medium to large size. Fruit are round to irregular in shape and of a deep purple-pink color. This variety has finely flavored flesh that is well balanced and sweet. It is a great choice for home gardeners with shorter seasons.

**Cream Sausage** (70 days) Here is a new and stunning tomato, an elongated paste tomato that is creamy white to pale yellow in color. The sweet flavor should be a hit with gourmet chefs. Bushy plants are quite productive. Think of the new sauce colors this beauty will create!

**German Johnson** (80-90 days) Very large 1-2 lb fruits are deep pink, very flavorful and nearly crack-free. The plants are very productive; the superb quality fruits are great for farmers' markets or home gardens. Delicious.

**Yellow Mortgage Lifter** (90 days) A beautiful yellow version of the regular Mortgage Lifter. It has the same great size and taste except this variety is bright yellow in color. Always popular with attendees at the Heirloom Garden Show, this big heirloom is richly flavored and quite rare.

**Moonglow** (90 days) The perfect-looking golden-orange tomato: smooth, medium-sized and globe-shaped. Excellent for farmer's markets and roadside stands. Fine flavored, rich and fruity. These are good producers of commercial looking fruit.

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**Roma Tomato** Determinate (70-75 days) A quality paste variety with very thick flesh. A popular old favorite with good yields.

**Bloody Butcher Tomato** (60 days) A small 3-4 oz "cluster" tomato. Fruit are deep red in color and have a nice tomato flavor. Production is really good, but where this open-pollinated tomato really shines is its earliness. It ripens in only about 60 days, making it ripen about the same time as Early Girl, but this tomato is much tastier.

**Huge Lemon Oxheart** (90 days) Gigantic, glowing, pale yellow beefsteak fruit have a very sweet, good taste. This heirloom was introduced to Seed Savers Exchange by M.D. Gonzales of Waynesville, Ohio. A fine variety that yields well. It is uniform, has few cracks, and our Amish grower says it is a good market variety.

**Mortgage Lifter** (85 days) Large, smooth, 1-lb. pink fruit have a delicious, rich, sweet taste. This variety has become very popular in recent years, after being developed by M.C. Byles of Logan, West Virginia. After crossing varieties for 6 years and selecting the best, he introduced this beauty that he named Mortgage Lifter in the 1940's after he sold plants for \$1 each and paid off the \$6,000 mortgage on his house. See the article in the Spring 2003 issue of "The Heirloom Gardener" magazine!

**Royal Hillbilly** (80-90 days) Introduced by our friend, Darrell Merrell, in 1997; at last we have this popular tomato back! Very large fruit are exquisitely flavored, being sweet with just enough tang to make them perfect; purplish-pink in color. Darrell selected this type from a patch of Hillbilly tomatoes in the 1990s, and it has become a favorite among seed collectors.

**Vintage Wine** A recent introduction from Europe. The tasty fruit are good-sized; a unique pale pink, with beautiful golden stripes that are quite distinct. Rich flavor and rare beauty make this a new winner. Potato-leafed plants.

**Tigerella** (55-75 days) Tasty round fruit are bright red with orange stripes. The 2-inch tomatoes are quite beautiful. The yields are high even in cool summers, and it starts producing very early. It also has good disease resistance. So smooth, so pretty! Originating in England; this is a good greenhouse crop.

**Chocolate Stripes** One of the most amazing tomatoes we have ever grown. For both color and taste, this variety excels. Fruit is deep reddish-brown inside; the outside

is covered with beautiful orange and lime colored stripes. One of the most unique looking tomatoes we have ever tried. It is very sweet and yet has a full-rich flavor, and this is the reason this tomato places very high in taste tests. Fruit is medium to large and are of a slightly flattened globe shape.

**Pantano Romanesco** A Roman heirloom that was sent to us by Signor Barbetti from Italy. The fruit are large and are deep red with almost a purple tint. The flesh is very rich, flavorful and juicy. An excellent tomato for home and market gardeners; very rare and delicious.

**Illinois Beauty** (80 days) An excellent home and market garden variety with great flavor. A heavy producer of 4-to 6-oz fruits which are usually free of any blemishes or cracks. This disease-resistant type sets fruit in hot, dry summers and produces prolifically all season - 6 plants yielded 9 gallons of tomatoes the first picking and 6 gallons the second picking! A lucky, accidental cross with some of the best qualities you can ask for in a tomato.

**Giraffe** (75 days) Semi-determinate. Intriguing long-keeping variety from Russia. 2- to 4- ounce round fruits are meaty with a red interior and skin that changes from green to yellow as the fruit ripens in storage. Vine-ripened fruits eventually reach a unique orange color. Reportedly keeps up to 5 months! Originally bred at the Timirjazev Agricultural Academy, Russia.

**Aunanas Noire aka Black Pineapple** A most exciting new tomato, it is wonderful in every way. This unusual variety was developed by Pascal Moreau, a horticulturist from Belgium. The multi-colored, smooth fruit (green, yellow and purple mix) weigh about 1 1/2 lbs. The flesh is bright green with deep red streaks. Everyone loves their superb flavor that is outstanding, being both sweet and smoky with a hint of citrus. The yield is one of the heaviest we have ever seen! Be the first at your farmer's market to have this new classic.

**Bread and Salt** Named for the long held tradition in Russia to give special guests a loaf of bread and salt as they arrive. In Russian culture bread is associated with hospitality, and salt has an association with long friendship. Forget bread, and just give your guests this tomato; they will love it! Big, sweet fruit are round to slightly wedge-shaped and pink in color.

**Henderson's Pink Ponderosa** (87 days) Huge size, some over 2 lbs., a meaty pink-red beefsteak introduced by Peter Henderson & Co. in 1891, and the most famous of their varieties. Their 1903 catalog said "Quality Beyond Praise, Rich and meaty-sliced. Thick and delicious canned." Still popular with gardeners.

**Cosmonaut Volkov** (75 days) A smooth and attractive, medium-large red tomato that has a full, rich flavor. The productive vines yield well even in hot weather; perfect for canning or slicing. This variety is from Dniepropetrousk, Ukraine, and was named after the first Russian Cosmonaut.

**Violet Jasper** When these little Oriental jewels ripen, your eyes will be stunned with color. They have pretty violet-purple fruit with iridescent green streaks! Fruit weigh 1-3 ounces, are smooth and have good tasting, dark purplish-red flesh. This variety will also amaze you with its yield: it's not only high, but incredibly high, being one of the most productive tomatoes we have grown.

**Purple Calabash** (85 days) May be the most purple of all "purple" tomatoes; a deep purple/burgundy and very colorful! The shape is also exciting, with the 3" fruit being very flat, ribbed and ruffled. Flavor is intense, sweet and tart, with a lime or citrus taste. A most uniquely flavored tomato! The plants give huge yields. This tomato resembles tomatoes pictured in 16th-century herbal diaries.

**Pink Icicle** Very delicious, bright pink fruit are shaped like a dazzling pink icicle. The flavor is very sweet and rich, being one of the best tasting pink paste types we've tried. Perfect for salsas and preserving, but also one of our favorites last season to eat fresh out of hand right in the garden. This variety was an incredible producer, and even though it has a small amount of seeds per fruit, we were still able to get a large crop of seeds due to its productiveness. Developed in the former Soviet Union, this is truly a masterpiece of tomato breeding. Introduced by us from the Ukraine along with its yellow, orange and black sisters.

**Pink Elephant** (80 days) Large, beautiful fruit are one of the most attractive varieties we grow. Big, glowing pink fruit are tender and delicious, and produced in abundance over a long season. A variety from the former USSR.