

2011 Heirloom Tomato Plants at Topmost Herb Farm

Plants may be reserved by email - carole.miller@att.net - many varieties sell out early. We do not ship plants, so all orders must be picked up at the greenhouse. Some less popular varieties have been dropped from the list but there are interesting new additions. These plants have a rich history. If you have never before tasted an heirloom tomato, you are in for a delightful surprise, as the variety of flavors seems infinite. In our uncertain Northeast climate, it's always wise to wait until June 1 to plant them. The plants are in quart pots, and are \$4.25 each.

Red and Pink

ANNA RUSSIAN

Fast growing plants produce quantities of teardrop shaped fruit in clusters of 2 or 3. Good for cooking and eating fresh. Very sweet and quite early. Color ranges from pink to red.

BOX CAR WILLIE

Named after the King of the Hoboes, these plants produce beautiful and delicious 10-12 ounce smooth red tomatoes. Very prolific over a long season.

BRANDYWINE

All-purpose meaty slicer, with rich flavor and the perfect hint of tartness, averaging 1 lb. This is the Suddoth's Strain, believed by many to have the best flavor. A reliable producer and a consistent customer favorite. Sometimes subject to catfacing, which is a physiological disorder found worldwide, most often on large fruited tomatoes. It appears as streaks or bands of tan scaly lesions which are not pretty but also not harmful to the consumer.

CASPIAN PINK

Awesome flavor. One of the best known and best-tasting Russian tomatoes, being very sweet and rich. These plants are perfect for cooler climates. Later than some, with 12-16 oz. fruits.

COSMONAUT VOLKOV

True tomato taste, rich and deep, always good, occasionally sublime. Fairly early, deep red, slightly flattened 8-12 oz. globes. From the Ukraine.

COSTOLUTO FIORENTINO

Susan and Jane recently spent some months in Florence where they discovered this delicious tomato at the markets and enjoyed it often. They brought back seeds, and the Google Translator has provided a translation from the Italian: tall plant variety, with round fruit which is very flat and ribbed. Its concentrated flavor makes it very suitable for sauces, but it is also often used in salads for its flavor.

EVA PURPLE BALL

Perfect globes, more pink than purple. Originally from the Black Forest of Germany in the 1800s. Sweet and juicy, the 4-5 oz. fruits are crack-resistant but soft and tender inside. Great in salads, sandwiches and sauce, peels easily.

GERMAN JOHNSON

An heirloom well known for its copious yields of mild, pink, meaty fruits with more than a touch of sweetness. Probably originated in Virginia or North Carolina. Often exceeds 1 lb.

PRUDENS PURPLE

The kind of tomato that legends are made of; pink skin, red flesh, perhaps from Kentucky or West Virginia, maybe Oklahoma or even Canada. A great sandwich tomato with rich taste, silken texture and very few seeds. Prolific producer, averages 1 lb.

RADIATOR CHARLIE'S MORTGAGE LIFTER

Pink, with cherry red flesh, most tomatoes weigh over 1 lb. Many tomatoes are named "Mortgage Lifter" but this is the original, developed by Charlie Byles in the 1930s in West Virginia. He owned an auto repair shop and though he had no formal education, he had an abiding interest in plant breeding and a love of tomatoes. By the 1940s, his plants were famous and each spring people would come from as far away as 200 miles to buy them for \$1 each, enabling him to pay off his mortgage of \$6,000 within the next 6 years.

RUTGERS

Developed in 1928 by the Campbell Soup Company and refined by Rutgers University in 1943. A heavy producer with long season reliability, this medium sized red all-purpose fruit has pleasing texture and great old-fashioned flavor.

SCHIMMEIG STRIPED HOLLOW

For those of you who have asked for mostly hollow stuffing tomatoes here is a spectacular gem. Sturdy plants, filled with clusters of 3-5 inch red fruits, delicately painted with thin stripes of gold. Perfectly shaped like small tri-lobed bell peppers, they stand up straight, hold their shape and melt in your mouth.

Red and Pink *(continued)*

SOLDACKI

From Poland to America in the early 1900s. Hard to find a better sandwich tomato with such a superb mix of sweetness and tartness. Good producer of 14 oz. pink globes.

THESSALONIKI

From Greece, introduced to the U.S. in the 1950s, this high-yielding sandwich, salad and canning tomato has outstanding flavor. Medium sized, crack resistant fruits on very productive plants.

TIFFEN MENNONITE

Sweet and tangy, similar to a Brandywine in taste. Winner of 2003 Great Northwest Tomato Taste-Off. This superb slicer averages 1 pound.

WOLCHESKI'S PINK

The Wolcheski tomato has been grown in Abington, CT since 1923. Willie Wolcheski's mother originally came from Minsk and brought seeds with her when she first emigrated to the US in 1917. It is a large, pink, heart-shaped tomato, low in acid and very flavorful. In addition to its being a great slicer, Willie's wife Lena makes delicious juice from this local heirloom.

Yellow

LILLIANS YELLOW

A stellar all-purpose tomato with creamy, meaty flesh. Complex, rich, deliciously deep flavors. A bit lopsided, but she makes up in flavor what she lacks in beauty. Usually weighing 1 lb.

YELLOW BRANDYWINE

Remarkably smooth, with a creamy texture and rich complex tangy flavor. Large, slightly ribbed fruits with an identifiable ring scar at the blossom end. One of the best golden yellow tomatoes.

White

GREAT WHITE

From Germany. Light yellow-white fruits with exceptionally sweet, smooth fruity flavor. Meaty, with few seeds and a unique large heart shape. Flavor is reminiscent of fresh cut pineapple, melon and guava. A favorite for eating out-of-hand.

WHITE WONDER

This heirloom dates back to around 1860. Presently served at Alice Waters' famous Chez Panisse Restaurant. Medium sized fruits ripen creamy white, with sweet flavor. Lovely in a mixed fresh tomato salad, with vinegar and oil, salt and pepper, garlic and herbs.

Orange

GOLDIE

Stupendously rich flavor and extraordinary velvety texture. Orange fruits usually over 1 lb. Pick them when there is a distinct rosy blush on the bottom. Dates back to 1870.

ORANGE BANANA

Originally from Moscow. 3-4" long, weighing 4-5 oz. Dries well and also makes the most fantastic sauce, sprightly sweet flavor with fruity complexity.

Green

AUNT RUBY'S GERMAN GREEN

Hard to believe a green tomato could be this good. Fruits blush lightly yellow and develop an amber-pink tinge at blossom end when ripe. Sweet and tart, rich and spicy. Averages a pound or more.

GREEN ZEBRA

A most unusual beast in the tomato menagerie! Yellow-green skin with dark green vertical stripes and emerald-green flesh. Remove suckers, but don't pinch back the top. Their exquisite taste is mild, tart-sweet with a hint of lemon. Marvelous in mixed salads and salsa. Small to medium size fruits on prolific plants. Harvest when just beginning to soften.

Purple

BLACK FROM TULA

High yield of dark reddish-black fruits with green shoulders. Sweet, spicy, and rich with old-fashioned flavor, averaging 8-12 oz.

BLACK KRIM

From the Isle of Krim in the Black Sea. Purple slicer with green shoulders. Flesh is brown and pink with an intensely unique taste, meaty and juicy, ideal for slicing. Due to their natural salty taste, sliced Krims do not require salting, just a hint of pepper. Be vigilant about consistent watering during the summer and keep watered evenly as they are subject to splitting. The large fruits are dead ripe and perfectly delicious when half green and still firm.

CHEROKEE CHOCOLATE

Popular heirloom from Tennessee. Reddish-bronze medium sized fruits. High yields of deliciously rich, large fruits. It has developed a great following among celebrity chefs because of its exceptionally rich tomato flavors and wonderful chocolate mahogany color.

CHEROKEE PURPLE

Another Cherokee from Tennessee, this medium sized fruit has dusky brownish-purple skins, dark green shoulders and brick-red flesh. Rich, smoky and deliciously sweet. Delicate fruits sunburn easily, so don't remove too many leaves from the plants.

Sauce Tomatoes, Great For Slicing Also

AMISH PASTE

One of the most popular of the Seed Savers Exchange, and also at Topmost. Cherry red, ultimate sauce tomato; meaty, superb flavor for slicing and salad. Good production. Averages 8 oz.

OPALKA

Polish heirloom brought to NY around 1900 by the Opalka family. Massive red fruits with few seeds. Mellow, full-bodied flavor. From a Fedco tomato tasting: "An oasis of flavor in a desert of tomato hell."

POMODORO CORNO

Seeds from Italy. Unique elongated tomato with excellent taste. Full of intense flavor, they resemble the San Marzano, but are larger and longer. Very meaty, and seeds are almost non-existent. Excellent in salads and sauces.

SPECKLED ROMAN

Rich tomato sweetness. Cherry red with carrot-color stripes and blood-red flesh. High yields of 4-5 oz fruits

STRIPED ROMAN

Stunning, unique long pointy red fruit with wavy orange stripes. A perfect midsize beauty with meaty flesh and excellent flavor.

A Variety of Tomato Colors

BIG RAINBOW

They resemble a rainbow while ripening - green on the shoulders, yellow in the middle and red on the blossom end. When ripe, they are yellow with a red blush at blossom end. When sliced, the yellow flesh has neon red streaks. Early fruit can weigh up to 2 lbs.

JAPANESE BLACK TRIFELE

Unusual pear shape, dusky burgundy with green shoulders. Incredibly rich flavor in small 4-6 oz fruits. One of the most popular varieties found at high-end markets in the Russian Republic today, often commanding high prices.

PINEAPPLE

Often a little funky cosmetically, but has a uniquely mild, low-acid fruity sweetness. Originally from Kentucky, its striped skin reveals flesh that has yellow and red marbling, tasting neither like a pineapple nor your typical red tomato. Large fruits are delicious in salads.

WILLIAMS STRIPED

A family heirloom from Kentucky. Large fruits with beautiful red and yellow stripes, inside and out. A taste test winner in 2005.

Cherry Tomatoes

BLACK CHERRY

Juicy and delicious with a dusky color and complex flavor. Prolific, 1-inch perfectly round fruits with incomparable sweetness.

GARDENER'S DELIGHT CHERRY

Bright red bite-size, extra sweet fruits, full of flavor. Many clusters of 6-12 tomatoes all summer long. Their taste is so good that one tends to overlook their tendency to crack.

JAUNE FLAMMEÉ

Deep orange large sized cherry from France. Rich wonderful taste.

KORALIK CHERRY

From Russia, a prolific producer of early red fruits.

PRINCIPE BORGHESE

From Italy. With its deep rich taste, this tomato is delicious fresh or cooked. Small, plum shaped, ruby red 1 oz. fruit dries beautifully and retains more flavor when dried than do other varieties. Flakes of the dried fruits can thicken sauces while adding rich tomato flavor. A heavy-producing determinate plant that grows for a long season.

TIGER TOM CHERRY

Early, large size orange cherry tomato with red stripes. Incredible taste, never bland.

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Additional tomato information on the website

Find us on Facebook

If you have not visited Topmost in the past and are relying on a GPS, you will be told that you have arrived a little bit farther to the West on North School Road, and on the opposite side of the street.

Look for the green sign on the tree at the start of the long dirt driveway, and the greenhouse in the front yard.

Please be mindful of Royce, the collie who sometimes escorts cars up the driveway.
He forgetfully runs in front of them sometimes.