

TOMATO TYPES

BEEFSTEAK: Big and tasty, among the largest you can grow - some up to 2 lbs! The meaty fruit holds together well when cut, making them the perfect sandwich tomato or for eating raw.

SLICER (STANDARD OR GARDEN TOMATO): Also called 'globe' tomatoes, these large-fruited varieties are great for sandwiches, grilling and salads.

PASTE: A little drier than a slicing tomato, it cooks or dries quickly yet holds its flavor. Great for sauces or canning.

HEIRLOOM: A taste of yesterday; generations of families have grown these genetically unique varieties for their robust taste and eye-catching looks. Non-hybrid; will come true from seed.

SMALL-FRUITED: Popular and healthy for snacking right off the vine. Delicious sauteed, grilled or stewed. Easy to grow and super productive. Includes cherry, grape.

TOMATO GROWTH

DETERMINATE: Bush-type tomato varieties which do not need pruning and may be grown without support. Fruit ripens within a concentrated period of time.

INDETERMINATE: Climbing varieties that need to be staked, trellised or caged. Pruning advised for best yield. Fruit ripens over an extended period.

COMMON PROBLEMS

BLOSSOM END ROT: Appears as a dry, leathery patch at the bottom of tomato. Caused by fluctuations in the soil's moisture supply. Provide uniform watering, use mulch and do not over-fertilize with nitrogen. Adequate soil calcium is important, also.

BLOSSOM DROP: At temperatures below 60 degrees or above 90 degrees, blooms may fall off plants. Do not plant tomatoes too early. In spring, a 'blossom set' spray may be used. Do not over-fertilize with nitrogen.

CRACKING: Sudden summer rains or watering after drought may cause cracking. Varieties differ in their tendency to crack so choose one recommended for our area. Pick fruits in the pin stage and allow to ripen indoors.

WILTS: A sudden wilting or death may result from disease. Choose plants that are resistant, usually expressed on plant tag as VF12, TMV, or N.

FOLIAGE DISEASES: Several fungal diseases may cause spots, lesions, yellowing and/or loss of lower leaves. Worse in prolonged cold & wet or hot & humid weather.