



**LITTLE TOMATO BOOK
2010**

**A GUIDE TO OUR VARIETIES AND
HOW TO GROW THEM IN THE
PUGET SOUND REGION.**

ABOUT OUR TOMATO PLANTS

We grow all our tomato plants on our South Kitsap farm from seed using organic soils & fertilizers. We “harden them off” for you so you can plant them outside right away with little or no protection from the weather (*some years mother nature does not cooperate with us on this though but we'll tell you*).

Our plants are all sturdy varieties in square gallon containers, usually 1-2' in height. We grow a number of varieties but many are very limited quantities so we recommend you order early.

Price is just \$4.50 each plant, including sales tax.

ORDERING:

We don't bring all our varieties to market each day, so pre-ordering helps us be sure to bring what you want.

To pre-order, please email or call Laura at Ambergardens.

You can pick your plants up

- at our farm in south Kitsap (*@3 miles east of Hwy. 16 off Mullinex exit*) OR
- at one of our farmers market locations –
Thursdays- downtown Tacoma or (order by Tuesday)
Saturdays- Port Orchard or Gig Harbor (order by Thursday)



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TIPS FOR SUCCESS GROWING TOMATOES

Planting: Tomatoes need sun, sun, sun! At least 6 hours a day, and more is better. Tomatoes are tender to frost and light freezes and like soil temperature at least 55-60 degrees. Plant in full sun into well worked garden soil. Work 1/2 cup of blended fertilizer (we use organic 4-5-3) into the planting hole. If you have acid soil or have had problems with blossom end rot in past years, a handful of bone meal and lime should also be added. Follow label directions.

You can plant them deep; the stems will sprout roots. Or, plant them on their sides so that the stem and roots are near the surface where the heat is and the top is out of the soil. Remove the leaves from the part of the stem that will be buried. The plant will start growing upwards right away. Don't try to force it or you may break it.

Red or black plastic mulch on the ground increases heat and yields and reduces weeds and watering.

There are many ways to trellis your plant – the bigger cages work OK but a stout trellis or “teepee” of poles or stakes works better. We like to grow a number of plants on livestock panel fencing sections tied to T-post stakes. Another easy way is to put three or four T-posts in the ground and wrap a circle of 6” wire fencing around it to make a cage for your plant.

Water: Water very lightly at first and cover the plants with Wallo Waters or a cloche if needed. Water medium and deep until harvest. Even moisture helps prevent blossom end rot. Drip watering is preferred, avoid overhead watering to reduce fungus and disease problems. Don't water every day; once or twice a week so that the top 6-8” of soil are moist is better. It's time to water again if you dig down 6” into the bed and the soil is dry. Blossom end rot is a sign of lack of calcium, which can be from over watering.

Fertilizer: Tomatoes are heavy feeders but too much leafy growth may indicate too much Nitrogen or water. Every 2-3 weeks apply light supplements of weak fish emulsion or compost tea. When blossoming, side dress with a calcium source (bone meal, chicken grit) to prevent blossom end rot.

Diseases: To help control or prevent diseases, especially late blight, avoid planting tomatoes in the same place for at least three years. Destroy the vines at the end of the year (don't compost). Copper sprays are also effective but they do kill earthworms. Compost teas used as a foliar spray have shown some promise as well. Liquid kelp is fabulous!

After the plants are 2-3' tall, I like to “limb them up” by removing all the suckering growth and foliage from the first 12”. This minimizes fungal spores from splashing up onto the leaves when it rains (or you water), which is the biggest disease issue here. It also improves air circulation, for a healthier plant.

Companions/ Allies: Brassicas, carrot, celery, chive, cucumber, borage, cilantro, dill, marigold, onion, pepper. Parsley, basil and bee balm are reputed to improve growth. Marigolds may repel aphids and tomato hornworm.

TOMATO CATEGORIES:

Heirlooms: Really old varieties, usually at least 50-100 years old. Often thought to have the best flavor but may not be as disease resistant as a hybrid. Your grandma grew heirlooms! These are the “antiques” & they have stood the test of time. All Heirlooms are also Open Pollinated but not all Open Pollinated are Heirlooms.

Open Pollinated: These are like heirlooms but the varieties are not quite as old. Usually these have been around 25-50 years or so. Kind of the “classic” tomato. If you look at catalogues, you’ll see differences in how they classify open pollinated and heirloom, so it isn’t an exact science. Think of it as the difference between a “classic” versus “antique” auto. You can save seed from open pollinated and heirlooms to grow next year; they both come “true”.

Hybrid: These are human cross bred tomatoes (not to be confused with genetically modified, which we don’t sell). Typically, these are plants that are a cross of 2 different parents (F1) to achieve the good qualities of each. Sometimes this is for earlier ripening, plant size or yield, improved disease resistance, uniformity of fruit size and shape. You cannot plant seed from a hybrid and get the same tomato next year – you’ll usually get one of the parents, or something else. I mean, it will be a tomato, but often will be inferior so we don’t recommend saving seeds from hybrids.

There are 2 main growth habit types:

Determinate or Bush varieties usually don’t need staking*. These are good candidates for smaller gardens, containers and the patio. Tomatoes on determinate varieties also usually ripen together, so are a good choice for canning, drying, etc, when you want to harvest a lot all at once. Space determinate varieties 18-24” apart in rows 36” apart. **Personally, we stake all tomatoes to keep the fruit off the ground.*

If you decide to grow your plant in a container, we recommend at least a 5 gallon size as a minimum. And yes, the “topsy turvy” and other upside down planters do work (we tried them) but you will find you have to water more and you’ll have less fruit than a plant grown in the ground or bigger container where the roots can really spread out.

Indeterminate varieties just keep growing and growing and must be staked or trellised or caged. They will fruit until frost, or in our case, “the monsoon season arrives”, leaving some green tomatoes at the end of the season. Space indeterminate varieties 20-30” apart in rows 36” apart. These will need some pruning or pinching out as they grow. Some varieties can get pretty tall and rangy, while others are quite manageable. A few of these varieties grow well in larger containers – ask us!

The following pages list our tomato varieties for 2010, first alphabetically and then with color photos and descriptions. If you have a question, or just need more information or advice to help you choose, contact us.

Thank you and here’s hoping for another great year for tomatoes here in Puget Sound!

2010 TOMATO PLANTS - alphabetical

Ananas Noire aka Black Pineapple (beefsteak)	open pollinated
Be My Baby (cherry)	open pollinated
Better Boy	hybrid
Big Beef (beefsteak)	hybrid
Black Plum	open pollinated
Black Zebra	open pollinated
Brandywine - Sudduth strain (beefsteak)	heirloom
Celebrity	hybrid
Chocolate (cherry)	open pollinated
Crimson Sprinter	open pollinated
Delicious (beefsteak)	open pollinated
Early Girl	hybrid
Flamme	heirloom
Garden Peach	heirloom
Gardeners Delight aka Sugar Lump (cherry)	heirloom
Gills All-Purpose	open pollinated
Glacier	heirloom
Grape	hybrid
Green Zebra	heirloom
Juliet (large grape)	hybrid
Koralik (cherry)	heirloom
Legend	open pollinated
Manitoba	heirloom
Matina	heirloom
Momotaro	hybrid
Moscovich	heirloom
Mr. Stripey (aka Tigerella)	heirloom
Northern Delight	open pollinated
Oregon Spring	open pollinated
Pik Red	hybrid
Pineapple (beefsteak)	heirloom
Principe Borghese (sauce - drying)	heirloom
Prudens Purple (beefsteak)	heirloom
San Marzano (roma)	heirloom
Santiam	open pollinated
Siberia	heirloom
Siletz	open pollinated
Silvery Fir Tree	heirloom
Sprite (grape)	hybrid
Stupice	heirloom
Sun Gold (cherry)	hybrid
Sun Sugar (cherry)	hybrid
Supersweet 100 (cherry)	hybrid
Sweet Million (cherry)	hybrid
Taxi	heirloom
Tumbling Tom (cherry)	hybrid
Yellow Pear (cherry)	heirloom

ANANAS NOIRE



Beefsteak - 1lb

Days: 80

**Type: Open Pollinated,
Indeterminate**

Means Black Pineapple in French. We first ate this one in 2008 & decided we had to grow it. The flavor is great, starts out sweet & smoky and ends with the perfect amount of tang. A large plant with a heavy crop. "Tie-die" interior colors. Makes a delicious rich tomato **sauce**.

BE MY BABY GENE POOL



Cherry - 1/2"

Days: 65

**Type: Open Pollinated,
Indeterminate**

This oddly named variety is the result of 10 years of crossing 3 plants; an heirloom beefsteak, cherry & grape tomato. Has a rich, sweet flavor. We've tasted it - it's really, really, really good but hard to find seeds.

BETTER BOY



Slicer/Salad

Days: 72

Type: Hybrid, Indeterminate

A Burpee introduction. Very dependable with extremely flavorful fruits, with flesh that's juicy, yet firm. Heavy foliage protects fruits from sun-scald. A highly adaptable variety with excellent disease resistance, too.

BIG BEEF



Beefsteak - 10oz+

Days: 73

Type: Hybrid, Indeterminate

A miracle of modern breeding, combining traditionally delicious flavor with today's disease resistance." A good choice to try in adverse growing conditions. Smooth fruits are globe-shaped, weighing @ 10 oz. An AAS winner. ASC, F1, F2, N, St, ToMV, V.

BLACK PLUM



Cherry

Days: 75

Type: Open Pollinated, Indeterminate

A favorite Russian variety that produces a long and steady crop of 2-inch elongated plum-shaped fruits colored a beautiful deep-mahogany with dusky-green shoulders. Fruit resembles a small paste tomato but with thinner walls. Unique sweet tangy flavor.

BLACK ZEBRA



Slicer/Salad 3-4oz

Days: 75

Type: Open Pollinated, Indeterminate

Sweet and juicy, its flavor carries the rich complexity associated with black tomatoes. This is a natural and stabilized cross between a black tomato and Green Zebra. A unique and stunning variety. Vigorous plants produce an abundance of 3 to 4 oz. tomatoes.

BRANDYWINE

Best in Show Winner out of 56 varieties
2009 Port Orchard Farmers Market Great Tomato Taste Off



Beefsteak - 1 lb+

Days: 77

Type: Heirloom

Indeterminate

This 1885 Amish pink fruited heirloom is generally considered to be the world's best-flavored tomato. Winner of Territorial Seed's 2002 Great Northwest Tomato Taste-Off has the flavor to which all other tomatoes are compared. Needs good conditions.

CELEBRITY



Slicer/Salad

Days: 70

Type: Hybrid

Determinate

A 1984 ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS WINNER. Absolutely incredible set of exceptionally flavorful, firm 8 to 12 oz. fruit on strong vines with good cover and outstanding disease resistance. Large clusters of consistently large, beautiful tomatoes.

CHOCOLATE CHERRY



Cherry - 1"

Days: 70

Type: Open Pollinated

Indeterminate

Extremely flavorful, uniform, round fruits in trusses of 8. Fruits hold stems very well, don't crack and can be picked several days before completely mature and allowed to ripen off the vine without sacrificing quality. Great variety for the home gardener.

CRIMSON SPRINTER



Slicer/Salad - 5 oz

Days: 70

Type: Open Pollinated, Semi - determinate

From Ontario @ 30 yrs ago. Brilliant candy apple red color and strong performance in cooler conditions, yields early season harvests. This is the earliest cultivar with such intense color. Excellent flavor.

DELICIOUS



Beefsteak 1lb+

Days: 75

Type: Open Pollinated, Indeterminate

Most tomatoes simply won't achieve their full flavor potential when nights remain cool, but Delicious remains true to its name when others fail. Borne in hefty clusters, these grand tomatoes are crack resistant and very meaty. The aroma is heavenly. F1, V.

EARLY GIRL



Slicer/Salad - 4-6 oz

Days: 60

Type: Hybrid, Indeterminate

A standard. Starts maturing fruit early and produces to relatively late in the season. Moderate sweetness, medium to high acidity. A good all season tomato for those who prefer the acid notes in tomatoes. Comes in first as an early slicing tomato. Dependable large harvests of fruit with good disease resistance.

FLAMME



Salad - 1.5"

Days: 65

Type: Heirloom

Indeterminate

Aka Juane Flamme. Heavy bearer of clusters of 6, beautiful, 1 1/2-inch, 2-3 oz, round, golf-ball sized tomatoes that are persimmon-orange colored inside and out. A delicious full-bodied sweet flavor with fruity overtones. Makes a great flavored **sauce**.

GARDENERS DELIGHT



Cherry

Days: 65

Type: Heirloom,

Indeterminate

This vigorous variety produces trusses of 6-12 sweet small fruits throughout the season. Also known as Sugar Lump, these red cherries range from 3/4 to 1-1/2 inch across and are loaded with sugary sweet flavor. A really shiny, pretty fruit too. We love this one.

GARDEN PEACH



Salad - 2oz

Days: 75

Type: Heirloom,

Indeterminate

This unique heirloom looks like a small peach - it even has slightly fuzzy skin! Small, light-yellow fruits have a delicate, distinctive flavor that's light, clean and a bit fruity. They have excellent keeping quality too. Introduced to American gardens in 1862.

GILL'S ALL PURPOSE



Salad/Slicer - 4"

Days: 75

**Type: Open Pollinated,
Determinate**

Bred in 1947 in Portland. Good for everything - cooking, **canning, juicing**, slicing & eating fresh. Great yields of 3-4.5" fruit, with rich tomato flavor. Very disease resistant.

GLACIER



Salad - 2.5"

Days: 55

**Type: Heirloom,
Indeterminate**

This extra early tomato variety produces attractive orange-red 2 1/2 inch tomatoes. Surprisingly sweet for an ultra-early type. Expect a determinate habit plant that is about 2 1/2 feet tall, 3 1/2 feet across, and quite open.

GRAPE



Grape

Days: 60

Type: Hybrid

Size: Indeterminate

Long, grape-like clusters of tomatoes have earned this variety its name. Very sweet, complex flavor has made these tomatoes a favorite of people everywhere. Vigorous vines are very productive. Crack-resistant and tolerant to a number of tomato diseases.

GREEN ZEBRA



Slicer/Salad - 2-4oz

Days: 72

Type: Heirloom, Determinate

This is the most unusual variety you'll ever grow! Fully ripe fruits are bright green, with stripes of lighter green. Round, smallish, 2-4 oz fruits have excellent real tomato flavor with zing & a fruity quality. Plants are vigorous.

JULIET



Roma / Cherry - 2 oz

Days: 60

Type: Hybrid, Indeterminate

This 1999 AAS Winner is a large oval fruited cherry. Red, shiny fruits avg. 2-2 1/4" L x 1 3/8-1 1/2" W, weighing 1 1/2-2 oz. Typically 12-18 fruits per cluster. Delicious, rich tomato taste for salads, great salsa, and fresh pasta sauce. Good crack resistance, vine storage, and shelf life. Really great grower here!

KORALIK



Cherry

Days: 61

Type: Heirloom, Indeterminate

Plant produces heavy yields of 1" red cherry tomatoes. A very early variety tomato with excellent taste. Suitable for home garden growers. An heirloom from Russia.

LEGEND



Slicer/Salad

Days: 68

**Type: Open Pollinated,
Determinate (containers)**

If late blight is a problem in your garden try growing Legend. Legend has shown strong tolerance of late blight fungus US8 and US11. The big 4-5 inch parthenocarpic (don't need pollinators) fruit are glossy red, with a uniform round shape & good flavor. Bred by Dr. Jim Baggett at OSU.

MANITOBA



Slicer/Salad

Days: 60

**Type: Heirloom,
Determinate (containers)**

Canadian - early, cool, short season variety. Good container plant. It bears heavy yields of 3-4 inch crimson red fruit with a refreshing, tangy tomato taste. Great for slicing or for **canning**. A very productive early heirloom. F1, V.

MATINA



Slicer/Salad

Days: 58

**Type: Heirloom,
Indeterminate**

German potato leaf variety bears clusters of 2 to 4 oz. red fruit with terrific flavor normally found only in a huge beefsteak but it ripens much earlier. Even though they start early, they continue to bear throughout a long season. A favorite of ours.

MOMOTARO



Slicer/Salad

Days: 74

Type: Hybrid Indeterminate

The most popular tomato in Japan, where gardeners prefer their tomatoes pink and sweetly flavored. Produces abundant crops of round, medium-sized, perfectly smooth tomatoes with no blemishes or imperfections. Their taste is wonderful, intensely rich and sweet, with just the right amount of acid.

MOSCOVICH



Slicer/Salad

Days: 65

Type: Heirloom Semi-determinate

A wonderful, extra-early tomato. This Russian heirloom yields an abundance of deep red, 2-3", 4-6 oz., smooth, cold-tolerant, round and slightly flattened fruits with a luscious, rich taste.

MR. STRIPEY (TIGERELLA)



Slicer/Salad

Days: 56

Type: Heirloom Indeterminate

Good crops of red fruits with clearly defined yellow-orange stripes. 4-6oz tomatoes have a rich, tangy flavor and are a beautiful novelty for adding whole or cutting into salads.

NORTHERN DELIGHT



Salad

Days: 65

Type: Open Pollinated, Determinate (containers)

Northern Delight was bred to perform in the short season of the Far North. Short, 24 inch determinate plants bear loads of 1 ½ inch wide by 3 inch long red fruit. If you like a mellow sweet flavor with just a hint of acidity, or your stomach is bothered by red tomatoes, give Northern Delight a try. F1, V.

OREGON SPRING



Slicer/Salad

Days: 68

Type: Heirloom, Open Pollinated

Size: Determinate (containers)

This famous determinate, slicing variety was developed at OSU. Produces incredibly early yields of 4 inch oval tomatoes when planted outside before your last frost date and only

PIK RED



Slicer/Salad 6 oz

Days: 70

Type: Hybrid, Determinate (containers)

Small vines but are very reliable & a big producer so it's a good choice for "big tomato in a small space" gardens. It's a proven performer in our region.

PINEAPPLE



Beefsteak

Days: 80

**Type: Heirloom,
Indeterminate**

This heirloom tomato is a stand-out. Bicolored red and yellow fruit grows very large, up to 2 lbs., and is streaked with red both inside and out. The flavor is wonderful, rich, fruity and sweet. Strong vines bear an abundant crop.

PRINCIPE BORGHESE

*2009 Plum/Paste Category Winner
Port Orchard Farmers Market Great Tomato Taste Off*



Sauce/Paste/Drying "Roma"

Days: 75

**Type, Open Pollinated
Heirloom, Semi-Determinate**

The classic sun-dried tomato from Italy. The small oval red fruit often contain no seeds at all and are very meaty. Use it fresh, **dried, in sauces, roasted, grilling**. A great storer too.

Ambergardens favorite "roma" style.

PRUDEN'S PURPLE



Beefsteak

Days: 72

**Type: Heirloom,
Indeterminate**

Developed from the Brandywine but has higher yields & less disease. Large potato leaf vine produces lots of 10-16oz, slightly flattened, pretty, blemish-free, purple-pink fruits with few seeds and excellent flavor. Ambergardens favorite beefsteak.

SAN MARZANO



Roma Type

Days: 76

Type: Heirloom

Indeterminate (containers)

An excellent variety for the home garden. Blocky plum shaped fruit have heavy walls and little juice, delicious in salads as well as for sauce, pastes, juices and canning. Crack resistant fruit.

SANTIAM



Salad

Days: 65

Type: Open Pollinated

Determinate (containers)

Extremely early variety sets and produces fruit at temperatures too low for most tomatoes. Fusarium and verticillium wilt resistant. 30 inch determinate & parthenocarpic (self fertile) vines with 2-3" red round fruit.

SIBERIA



Salad

Days: 50

**Type, Open Pollinated,
Determinate (containers)**

This could be the earliest tomato ever - only 7 weeks from transplant to fruits! Capable of setting fruit at 38 degrees F on sturdy, dark green plants. The fruits are bright red, averaging 3 to 5 oz., and bunch together in clusters of 10 or more fruits.

SILETZ



Slicer/Salad

Days: 52

Type: Open Pollinated, Determinate (containers)

Siletz is really reliable in our cool weather. The red tomatoes are nearly seedless, round 8-10 oz. Very good flavor considering how early a tomato it is . Vigorous plants are parthenocarpic . Bred by Dr. Jim Baggett of Oregon State University. F1, V.

SILVERY FIR TREE



Slicer/Salad

Days: 58

Type: Heirloom, Determinate (containers, baskets)

2' plant produces good yields of 4" red tomatoes with good flavor. Plant has fuzzy carrot/fern like leaves . It makes a very attractive patio tomato plant. Also good for hanging baskets. A variety from Russia. Disease Resistant.

SPRITE



Grape

Days: 60

Type: Hybrid, Determinate (containers)

Refreshingly sweet, with crisp, thin skins, miniature 'Sprite' Tomatoes are perfect juicy bite-sized treats. A great choice for smaller gardens, bearing clusters of luscious, red grape tomatoes on compact, bushy plants.

STUPICE



Salad

Days: 55

**Type: Heirloom,
Indeterminate**

A native of Czechoslovakia, where its extreme earliness, tolerance to cold, superior flavor and high yields have earned it worldwide attention. Very high yields! Fruits are sugary sweet, weighing 1 to 2 oz that make an excellent choice for first-of-the-summer salads, lunch boxes, and juicing.

SUN GOLD



Cherry

Days: 60

Type: Hybrid, Indeterminate

The fruity tropical flavor is a big hit with everyone who tastes it. The bright apricot-orange round globes are 1 1/4 inches across and borne on long trusses. Plan on setting up your lawn chair between Sun Gold and Sweet Million for blissful snacking. Still Ambergardens favorite cherry!

SUN SUGAR



Cherry

Days: 62

Type: Hybrid, Indeterminate

From the same seed developer as Sun Gold, but less prone to cracking, & slightly sweeter but with lower "tang" than Sun Gold. Fruits are a lovely golden yellow, weigh 1/2 oz., and have thin skins. Heavy early cropper. If you don't like Sun Gold because of it's tendency to split - try this one.

SUPER SWEET 100



Cherry

Days: 65

Type: Hybrid, Indeterminate

An improved Sweet 100. Staked hybrid plants produce long strands of 100 or more super-sweet cherry tomatoes, weighing about 1 oz. each and measuring 1" in diameter. Extra-high in Vitamin C. Plants bear throughout the season. Very dependable & great flavor too.

SWEET MILLION



Cherry

Days: 65

Type: Hybrid, Indeterminate

3 foot tall plants produce 1-1 1/2 inch fruit in grape-like clusters. Terrific flavor in high yields of super-sweet cherry tomatoes that have excellent, hybrid disease resistance. A truss of these two bite size tomatoes is welcome next to any mixed greens salad. This is a standard in northwest gardens for good reason.

TAXI



Slicer/Salad

Days: 65

**Type: Open Pollinated,
Determinate (containers)**

The best yellow variety for short season areas. Bright yellow 4-6 oz .fruits on 2' plants are smooth and blemish free. Flesh is meaty, mild and acid free. Excellent fresh for salads, sandwiches or adds a nice splash of color to salsas. Heavy yielder over 3 to 4 weeks.

TUMBLER



Cherry

Days: 45

Type: Hybrid, Dwarf

Determinate

(hanging baskets)

Specially bred for hanging baskets. Bushy plants have pliable stems, and look fantastic when mixed in containers with trailing annuals. Sweet, bright red fruits.

YELLOW PEAR



Cherry

Days: 70

Type: Heirloom, Open

Pollinated, Indeterminate

Old variety, from the early 1900's. Vigorous vines produce high yields of 2", yellow-skinned, pear-shaped fruits with few seeds. A great tomato just loaded with hundreds of small 1-2 inch yellow pear-shaped fruit. F1, F2, V. Very popular here!