

Steve's tomatoes-spring 2015

Here is a list of the seedlings. Note that when planting you should plant deeper than you'd typically think. I like to plant so that at least a couple inches of the stem is buried, (plant leggy seedlings even deeper), roots will grow from the buried stem. The plant will grow a little more slowly at first but I've found they are more prolific and have a deeper root structure requiring less water.

Cherokee Purple

Heirloom from Tennessee cultivated by Native American Cherokee tribe. Very productive plants producing loads of dusky rose to purple colored, 12 oz.-1 lb., beefsteak tomatoes with deep red colors to the interior flesh and dark shoulders. A very popular market variety because of it's rich, complex and sweet flavors.

Cherokee Chocolate

This rogue heirloom originated from a popular old heirloom from Tennessee, Cherokee Purple. This 4-inch beefsteak variety has exceptionally rich tomato flavors and wonderful chocolate mahogany color.

Sweet Yellow Cherry

Seeds harvested from tomatoes that were given to us as a gift in 2012. 1/2 inch golden-yellow cherry tomato loaded with sweet tomato flavors.

Green Zebra

Developed in 1985, this is an unusual and exquisite green tomato chosen by Alice Waters for her restaurant, Chez Panisse. The 2-inch round fruit ripens to a yellow-gold with dark-green zebra-like stripes. The flesh is lime-emerald in color that has an invigorating lemon-lime flavor. It's never been a great producer for us but what we've gotten has been good.

Black from Tula

Russian heirloom from Tula. Largest of the black tomatoes with 3-4", slightly flattened, oblate, dark brown to purple fruit with deep green shoulders. Deliciously outstanding, rich, slightly salty, smoky-fruit flavor.

Big Yellow

Seeds came from a "volunteer" plant, (I toss over ripen tomatoes down near our rear fence.) The plant was a regular leaf plant that yields large (8-10 oz.), flattened, yellow - orange tomatoes with excellent flavor. Some fruit is slightly green shouldered.

Black Prince

Originally from Siberia, and is regarded as a "true Siberian tomato" that does very well in cooler climates. The Black Prince tomato is said to have considerable health benefits beyond the presence of lycopene. These deep garnet round, 2-inch (2-3 oz.) tomatoes are full of juice and incredibly rich fruity flavors. The small fruits contain deep rich colors on the inside.

Indigo Rose

We saw this tomato featured in the Cron. two years ago and bought the seeds. The plant is somewhat bushy, the fruit is 1" round and starts out black, as it ripens it develops bright red streaks near it's stem, quite unique and very tasty. The plant suffers quickly from over watering, (growth will stop and the leaves will curl), so go very easy on the water. I "drown" several plants before I figured this out!

Black Cherry

The only truly black cherry tomato. Seeds came from a "volunteer" plant, (I toss over ripen tomatoes down near our rear fence.), which produced a large, sprawling, indeterminate, regular-leaf, vigorous tomato plant that yielded an abundant crop in huge clusters of 1", round, deep purple, mahogany-brown cherry tomatoes. Fruits are irresistibly delicious with sweet, rich, complex, full tomato flavors that burst in your mouth, characteristic of the best flavorful black tomatoes.

Nyagous

A prolific, rare, Russian tomato variety. Beautiful, smooth, round, "black" tomatoes that are dark mahogany with dark grey-green shoulders. Nyagous is a wonderfully firm and blemish-free, 6 oz. tomato with lots of sweet, complex fruit flavors and a clean acidic finish. Up to 6 fruits to a cluster. Among Amy's favorites!

Carbon

Tomato seeds produce big, regular-leaf tomato plants yielding prolific amounts of 10-14 oz., beautiful purple-brown, open-pollinated tomatoes. Among of the darkest of the black tomatoes with delicious, rich, complex flavors. Among Amy's favorites!

Purple Russian

A Russian heirloom tomato from the Ukraine. Regular leafed plant produces huge amounts of purple-red, 6 oz., oblong, (plum-shaped to egg-shaped) tomatoes with a blemish-free skin excellent sweet flavor.

Stupice,

This potato-leaf heirloom from Czechoslovakia is a cold-tolerant tomato that bears an abundance of very sweet, flavorful 2 to 3-inch, deep red fruit. A 1988 comparative tasting in the San Francisco area gave it first place for its wonderful sweet/acid, tomatoey flavor and production.

Red Pear

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.

Tobolsk

100 year old heirloom tomato, originally from the Urals near the city of Tobolsk, Russia. Plant produces large quantities of 3", round, light yellow to orange fruit with excellent sweet flavors. Perfect balance of acid for it's deliciously sweet flavors. One of Amy's favorites! (I got these seeds several years ago as a free "throw-in" item from the supplier, what is very strange is that my father was born in Tobolsk in 1906!)

Paul Robertson

This favorite Russian heirloom tomato was named after the operatic artist who won acclaim as an advocate of equal rights for Blacks. His artistry was admired world-wide, especially in the Soviet Union. This "black" beefsteak tomato is slightly flattened, round, and grows to 4-inches. It's deep, rich colors stand it apart from others, a dusky, dark-red, with dark-green shoulders, and red flesh in it's center. Very flavorful fruits with luscious, earthy, exotic flavors and good acid/sweet balance. Paul Robeson (aka Pol Robeson) won "Best of Show" at

Carmel TomatoFest. As this tomato variety originates from Siberia and sets fruits at lower temps, it is an excellent choice for cooler growing regions.

New in 2014

Maglia Rosa cherry

Saw this featured in the Cron. and bought the seeds. Maglia Rosa is a beautiful cherry tomato that got its name from the [mottled pink jersey](#) worn by the lead racer in the Tour of Italy. It is a highly productive semi-determinate variety that does very well in pots and small spaces. Maglia Rosa fruits prolifically, and early (approximately 55 days after transplant). Be sure to pick tomatoes while they are light pink, which is the stage when peak flavor occurs.

Zarnitza

A short indeterminate heirloom from a region 50 miles south of Moscow. (Zarnitza translates as "Summer Lightning.") A very early and prolific variety that produces red, 2 1/2-inch fruit. Disease and crack resistant. Delicious, sweet, buttery and juicy. One of the best early varieties.

Southern Nights

Russian heirloom, potato-leaf variety producing lots of 12-16 oz., purple-brown beefsteak fruits with some green shoulders. Good disease resistance.

Chocolate Stripes

One of the Top 3 tomatoes of the 2007 TomatoFest. Tomato seeds produce very large, indeterminate, regular-leaf tomato plants that yield a plentiful crop of 3-4 inch, mahogany colored with dark, olive green-stripping (similar to black zebra). Fruits have delicious, complex, rich, sweet, earthy tomato flavors. Chocolate Stripe, another desirable "black tomato," produces well into the autumn. A great sandwich tomato and salad tomato.

Gigantesque

These rare Ukrainian tomato seeds produce very bushy, indeterminate, regular-leaf tomato plants that give a heavy yield of BIG, 2 lb., orange-red, beefsteak tomatoes with a meaty, pink flesh inside that carries deliciously robust flavors and very few seeds. If you slice a big slice of the tomato for a sandwich you better have some BIG bread slices to hold it. A good choice for cooler growing regions as well as moderate to hot areas. Disease resistant.

Indian Stripe

Considered to be a strain of Cherokee Purple. The fruits of Indian Stripe are slightly smaller, lighter in color, and yield more fruits. Big regular-leaf tomato plant produces big crops of 10-12 oz., dusky-purple, irregular shaped, slightly flattened beefsteak tomatoes with a big, complex flavors. Produces well in late season coolness. A wonderful sauce tomato, or sandwich tomato.

Black Ethiopian

A favorite Russian heirloom tomato. Originally from the Ukraine region. Tomato seeds produce vigorous indeterminate, regular-leaf tomato plants that yield copious amounts of red-mahogany-bronze, 5-oz., plum-shaped fruit. Exceptional, rich, fruity, tangy taste. Rare tomato seeds.

Tang

Tasty orange slicer with high levels of beta carotene for a nutritional boost! Tang is an

open-pollinated sister variety to Sunkist F1, released from the same orange field tomato breeding program at the University of New Hampshire. At 85 days to maturity, Tang is later than Sunkist. Fruit are slightly smaller in size and reddish-orange in color. Great flavor. Fruit averages 8-10 oz. Indeterminate

Black Trifele

Striking dark color and unique shape make this variety a farmers' market and garden favorite. Black Trifele is a bottom-heavy beauty, pear-shaped with purple-black color. Narrow shoulders have typical green streaking. These 4-6 oz tomatoes are 3-4" tall, borne on prolific, potato leaf plants. Texture is smooth, meaty, velvety. A tomato for the gourmand, Black Trifele's flavor is often described as dense, smoky, chocolatey. Indeterminate

Green Tiger

An entirely new class of tomato! Elongated striped cherry type is eye-catching and gorgeous in tomato mixes. Yellow-green color with darker green streaking is unique and provides excellent contrast. Chefs like the cylindrical shape for easy slicing – width-wise for 1" rings or length-wise for attractive 3-4" long tomato "boats". Skin color ripens from pale green with darker green streaking to yellowish with green streaking. Vigorous plants dripped with fruit. Indeterminate

Sweetie Cherry

The name says it all: super-sweet red cherry tomato with high sugar content - eaten right off the vine! Sets masses of 1-1.5" round cherries in long clusters prolific through summer. Firm texture similar to grape tomatoes. Ideal for eating fresh or canning, in salads or relishes. Plants are vigorous and reliable producing high quality fruit, even in adverse conditions. One of the first ripe cherries in 2008 trials, ripening up perfectly through six weeks of rain and cold temperature, an absolute standout! Fruits average 1/2-1 oz. Indeterminate

Bonnie Best

The famous old canning tomato that was introduced in 1908 by Bonnie Plant Farm in Union Spring, Alabama. It became one of the most respected canning varieties in America in the first half of the twentieth century. Medium-sized fruit are round, red, meaty and loaded with flavor. A good producer that makes a fine slicer too. Becoming hard to find due to modern, flavorless hybrids.

New for 2015

Yellow Pear: These organic tomato seeds produce huge, bushy plants that yield very large quantities of 1 oz., 1 1/2-inch, bright yellow, pear-shaped cherry tomatoes that will give you fruit until frost. The tomatoes of this yellow pear tomato variety are zesty sweet and delicious. A beautiful salad or snackin' tomato. If you are growing several colors of cherry tomatoes include this one. A great tomato choice for a patio or planter garden. A good producer even in cooler coastal regions

Indigo Apple: Indigo Apple is an extraordinary tomato. An eye catcher, to say the least. Related to the now famed OSU Blue Fruit tomato. Seeds produce sprawling indeterminate plants that produce beautiful pendant clusters of 3-4 oz., tomatoes deep purple to black colors

(caused by high levels of anthocyanin...a naturally occurring anti-oxidant found in blueberries.) The gradual color changes appearing in the fruit as it ripens is interesting: fruit begins green with purple/black colors starting at the crown and spreading around fruit alongside mahogany and red colors. Tomatoes are fully ripe when soft to the touch. Because of its appearance, good sweet/tart flavors and long shelf life, Indigo Apple has proven to be a good market tomato. A good slicer since it is not too juicy. Resists sun-scald. Disease tolerant. Go ahead! Give this a try to see if it fits with your other colored tomatoes.

Black Plum: One of my favorite Russian varieties 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.

Orlov Yellow Giant: A Russian heirloom tomato named after Count Alexeis Orlov, a famous Russian horticulturist. The seeds produce tall, indeterminate, potato-leaf, tomato plants that bear moderate to very good yields of very beautiful 3-inch, 14-20 ounce, yellow-gold, slightly-flattened, lightly-fluted, beefsteak tomatoes that have delicious lightly-sweet flavors that are well balanced with just the right amount of acidity to add the wonderful zest you want for old-fashioned tomato splendor. This is a tomato that deserves a tryout for your garden as it will have you wanting to continue with Orlov Yellow, year-to-year. It's meaty and flavorful flesh make this a good slicer for tomato salads, sandwiches and tomato salsas.

Big Orange: Very productive plant producing 1 lb., big, round, orange, beefsteak fruit with skin that peels like an orange. Excellent sweet flavors. Don't let the simple name lead you to believe that this tomato is less than grand. This is a great variety for those wanting the biggest round & juicy, orange tomatoes. Rare tomato seeds. Low Acid tomato

Andrew Rahart's Jumbo Red: This New York heirloom beefsteak (passed down from Andrew through his son John) has 12 to 16-ounce fruit with intensely red skin and dense flesh. This rich delicious juicy tomato will likely burst in your mouth.

Amish Paste: Very productive heirloom from Wisconsin that produces up to 12 oz., deep-red oxheart-shaped, meaty fruit. (Probably one of the largest paste tomatoes) Lots of sweet, tomatoey flavors from this coreless meaty fruit. A great slicing and sauce tomato.

Yellow Perfection: This potato leaf heirloom originally from an old British seed company produces 1 1/2 to 2-inch, round, brilliant-yellow, thin-skinned and delicious heirloom tomato fruits.

Dr. Wyche's Yellow: Named after Dr. Wyche who supposedly lived in the mountains and fertilized his garden with manure from a nearby zoo. Undoubtedly one of the best tasting yellow tomatoes to be found. A beefsteak heirloom that produces slightly flattened, smooth,

blemish-free, golden-yellow fruit with a meaty interior and few seeds. It's rich flavor and larger size sets this variety apart from other yellow heirlooms.

Gary Ibsen's Gold: Tomato seeds for this tall, leafy variety were sent to Gary Ibsen in 1990 from a gardener in Boone County, WV who shared that he had been growing these, and a favorite red variety for 40 years. He was given the tomato seeds from his Uncle who had grown them in Tennessee. For the past several years Ibsen included them in his seed trials under the name "No Name #4", and harvested the seeds each year from a few preferred fruits. In 2006 while eating some of this fruit just off the vine, he found myself so pleased with the flavor that he said to my wife, "Now this (slurp) is my kind of gold!" She suggested he call it "Gary Ibsen's Gold," harvest more tomato seeds, and share it with his friends. Potato leaf plant produces lots of very juicy, 14 oz. , brilliant orange-gold globes with tropical fruit flavors with enough acid balance to guarantee a burst of tomato delight.

June Pink: June Pink' is almost identical to 'Earliana' except for the deep rose-pink color and longer period of production. The 'Earliana' tomato was developed at the turn-of-the-century as growers attempted to bring the earliest tomato to market. It was first offered commercially in 1900 by Johnson and Stokes. These organic tomato seeds produce indeterminate, regular-leaf plants that yield clusters of 4-6 beautiful, uniformly round, rose-pink tomatoes. It's considered a perfect market tomato because of it's visual appeal and it's wonderful sweet/tart flavors. June Pink produces well until frost and appears to have good disease resistance. A good salad and canning tomato.

Sunset's Red Horizon: This outstanding heirloom, named by tomato grower, Gary Ibsen, for Sunset magazine in 2003, is a native to Southern Russia. Huge, red, 4 to 6-inch, meaty, heart-shaped fruits are borne from a big leafy plant with wispy vines. Introduced to the West by Nik Peplenov who immigrated to the US in 1999 and brought with him his favorite heirloom seeds from the Rostov Don region of Russia. They are not only one of the first varieties to produce but produce fruit well into November (in Oregon and in California). Proven resistant to frost, blossom end rot and cracking. Delicious fruit with huge tomatoey flavors.

Yellow Ruffled: Included in gardens because of exciting appearance. This "stuffer" has 2 to 3-inch fruit, deeply pleated like an accordion, with a hollow seed cavity perfect for stuffing. Pleasing, mild flavor.

Carmello: The French Carmello is among the most productive red tomatoes ever bred. It is popular in European markets because of it's exceptionally fine flavor. It was de-hybridized over a 5 year period around 1993. Bears large crops of heavy, juicy tomatoes with flavor that just doesn't stop. Another favorite because it consistently produces great tasting fruit, even in cooler weather. Good for slicing in salads, sauces, or as an integral part of any dish.

Red Cherry: Harvested these seeds from cherry tomatoes that a neighbor had left over from a party, they were outstanding to eat, like candy so I couldn't resist saving the seeds

Sweet 100 Cherry: The classic red cherry tomato, very sweet. Plant is very prolific and can be sprawling, needs to be stakes and supported. Plant has long strands, each with up to 100 or more 1-inch, 1-oz., bright red, extra sweet cherries. High in Vitamin C.

Purple Bumblebee: Lovely burgundy fruits with olive green stripes and superb rich flavor. Incredibly pretty in mixed pints - an instant hit at farmer's markets. Versatile in the kitchen. An eye-catching color combination that will draw customers back for more. Indeterminate • Resists cracking • 1.5" fruit.

White Zebra: White Zebra is very rare. Sweet and juicy 4-6 oz. elongated globes! The color combination is awesome, white with bright lime green stripes. You will be amazed at these sweet and juicy 4-6 oz. elongated globes! The color combination is awesome, white with bright lime green stripes. As the fruit ripens, they blush yellow and the striping becomes more faint.

Big Beef: A high rated tomato, with a combination of old-fashioned tomato flavor, modern-day growth habits. Uniform, large, globe-shaped fruits average 10- 12 ounces, with smooth texture and firm flesh.