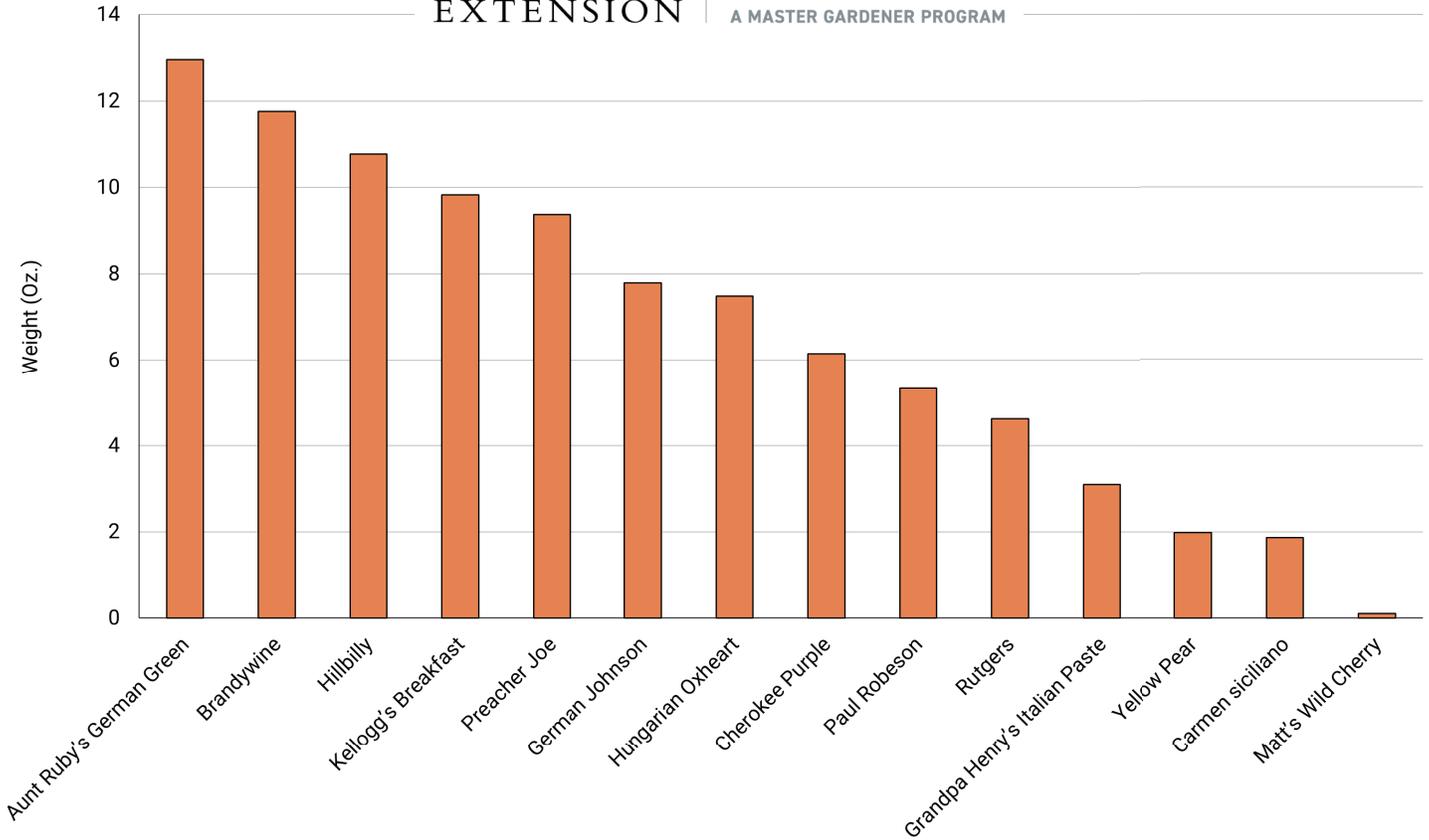


Year of Heirloom Tomatoes (2024) Trial Results Summary

Average Fruit Size (Oz.)

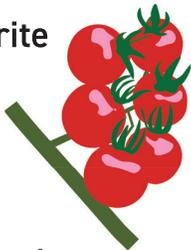
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

GROW IT · EAT IT
A MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



Overall Favorite

Matt's Wild Cherry



Top Rated for Plant Vigor

Matt's Wild Cherry



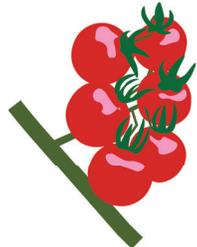
Preacher Joe



Kellogg's Breakfast



Time to Harvest



Shortest average days to harvest: Matt's Wild Cherry (53 days)



Longest average days to harvest: Carmen Siciliano (115 days)

Top Rated for Productivity

Matt's Wild Cherry



Yellow Pear



Kellogg's Breakfast



Top Rated for Fruit Flavor

Matt's Wild Cherry



Kellogg's Breakfast



Preacher Joe



Top Rated for Fruit Texture and Eating

Matt's Wild Cherry



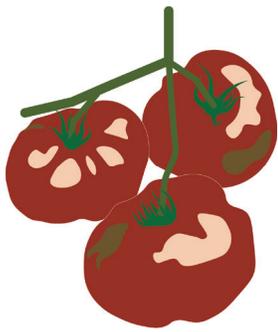
Kellogg's Breakfast



Yellow Pear



Summary of Variety Trials



Paul Robeson

The plant did not produce much overall, yielding 9 to 11 fruits in different settings. Growers think it may be sensitive to high heat. Despite low yields and small fruit size, the taste of the tomatoes was very good. The plant overall was sensitive to heat, pests, septoria leaf spot, and early blight. The health of the plant declined early on. The plant didn't match the packet description which promised 20 oz. fruits.



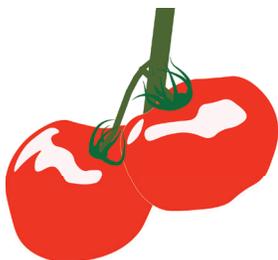
Brandywine

This tomato variety produced large, pink fruits with good flavor, ideal for tomato sandwiches and slicing, but it was not as prolific or large as expected, with yields ranging from 9 to 14 fruits per plant. It struggled in high heat and drought, causing delayed ripening, cracking, and reduced productivity. The plants grew to about 4 feet tall with lush foliage, but ripened late in the season, often stopping production by August and resuming in October. While resilient to some pests and diseases, it had issues like leaf curl, browning, and minor aphid damage. Despite its good flavor, the variety performed poorly under stress, with many growers finding it not worth replanting due to low yields and sensitivity to heat. It may do better in milder climates with consistent care.



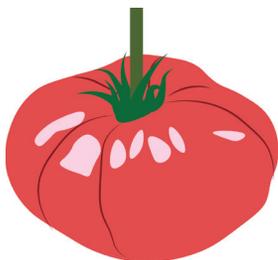
Cherokee Purple

This variety had mixed reviews. Some described it as a hardy plant and a good producer while others experienced smaller, delayed fruiting. The size of fruit varied greatly based on the growing conditions. It produces a dark red fruit with a sweet, smoky and tart well-balanced flavor. The fruit was soft and showed cracking on top. Showed some sensitivity to heat. Overall, this variety was a consistent favorite for its flavor and productivity, but it benefits from careful attention to spacing, staking, and regular fertilization.



Preacher Joe

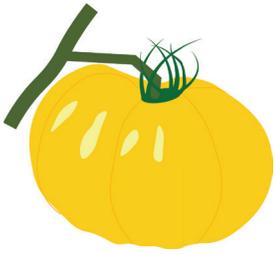
This tomato variety produced nice fruit with outstanding flavor, but overall yields were lower than other varieties. The plant grew tall (up to 6 feet) and required strong support and consistent watering. Fruit set was delayed by extreme heat, resuming in September. The fruit was two-lobed, deep red, and ripened quickly once it reached full size. It attracted more pests than other varieties, including aphids, hornworms, fruit worms, and stink bugs, requiring diligent pest management. The plant also suffered from groundhog damage and died by early September in some cases. Despite its challenges, the variety offered great flavor but was difficult to grow due to pest pressure and environmental stress, making it better suited for gardeners who can provide extra care.



German Johnson

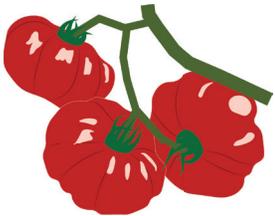
This plant produced an average or below average yield. It produced late. The tomatoes tasted better as it aged. It got aphids.





Kellogg's Breakfast

This tomato variety produced 18 to 28 fruits, with large tomatoes, especially early in the season, some reaching over 1 pound. The plant grew to about 5 feet tall, and was hardy and sturdy, capable of supporting its large fruit without extra reinforcement. It was praised for its juicy, better-than-average flavor, making it perfect for roasting and a favorite for its versatility. While it faced aphid and blight issues later in the season, it ripened early and had a strong start with large fruit. For optimal growth, it required more spacing (18 inches was too tight). This variety is highly recommended for its hardiness, flavor, and early productivity, though careful attention to spacing and disease management will help ensure success.



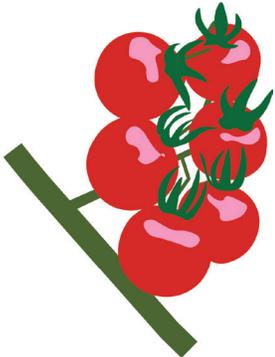
Hillbilly

A sturdy variety with nice foliage, no signs of blight during the season, and large fruits. However, it produces few fruits and had aphids (but not until the end of the season).



Aunt Ruby's German Green

This tomato variety produced 15 to 23 fruits, with lower-than-expected yields due to drought, which caused some plants to stop production by August. The plant grew robustly to 6 feet tall with dense foliage and thick, sturdy stems capable of supporting its large fruit. The fruit set low on the plant, blending in with the leaves, making it hard to determine ripeness. It offered large, flavorful fruits, ideal for baking, frying, and other culinary uses. Some minor pest issues and early blight were noted, and heat and drought caused blossom drop and slowed ripening. It required consistent watering and heavy staking to manage the weight of the fruit. Frequent pruning helped maintain plant health and access to fruit. Despite its challenges, this variety is a reliable green tomato with excellent flavor, perfect for those willing to put in the effort to manage its growing needs.



Matt's Wild Cherry

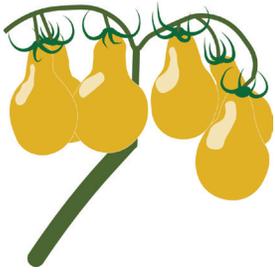
It grows quickly and very wild! It can use a lot of space. Produces lots of fruits. Not bothered by pests. Was a favorite at taste testings. First rated for plant vigor, plant productivity, fruit flavor, and fruit texture and eating quality.



Carmen Siciliano

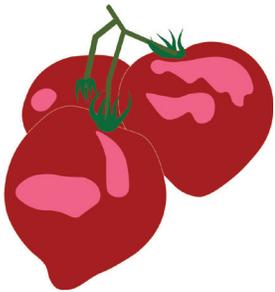
This tomato variety had nice color and produced meaty, oblong fruits, but it had a slow growth rate due to heat and took time to get going in a pot. It had a late yield and slow ripening, with a late fruit set and sparse foliage. One plant yielded 18 tomatoes, and another produced 13 fruits. It was large but suffered from leaf curl, possibly from heat stress. Overall, it had a decent production rate but required patience due to its delayed growth and fruit ripening.





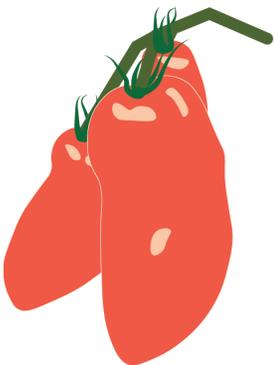
Yellow Pear

This tomato variety is an exceptional producer, with one plant yielding 391 tomatoes and still producing into mid-October, while another yielded about 100 tomatoes before succumbing to environmental stress. The plants grew to 4.5 feet tall and were highly productive once established, producing fruit early and continuing throughout the season. The flavor was praised for its versatility, making it ideal for snacks and salads. Fruits ripened quickly but required timely harvesting as they dropped from the stems once they showed color. It was hardy, not prone to pests, and had minimal issues. While it performed best with small transplants (about 9 inches tall), the plants needed more space (greater than 18 inches) for optimal growth. Despite its durability, careful watering and protection from wind and environmental stress enhanced its performance. This variety is perfect for gardeners seeking abundant yields with minimal pest issues and is highly recommended for future planting.



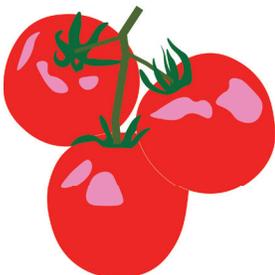
Hungarian Oxheart

This tomato variety produced tall, robust plants (5–8 feet) with meaty, deep-red fruits ideal for slicing on sandwiches, but it had significant drawbacks. Fruits were prone to rot if not picked immediately, and early harvests often suffered from blossom end rot. While plants in containers yielded better results (7 out of 10 fruits) than those in raised beds, water stress, intense sun, and pests like aphids and flea beetles made this a high-maintenance choice. Despite early ripening and continued growth into October, overall performance was inconsistent, and the variety is not recommended for future planting.



Grandpa Henry's Italian Paste

This tomato variety produced nice-sized fruit with an unusual elongated shape and vibrant skin. The plant was hardy and resistant to pests but took a while to get started and showed signs of being droopy early on. It eventually grew to 5 feet with sparse foliage. The fruit ripened very slowly and had a bland taste, with some having empty spaces between internal walls. Despite some variability in size and shape, it yielded 26 fruits before frost, with fruits often growing in clusters. The plant was vigorous with a high yield, but the thick branches required support from a 7-8 ft trellis. Overall, it produced paste-like tomatoes, though it struggled with consistent growth.



Rutgers

This tomato variety was prone to pests, especially aphids, which caused the plant to die by mid-August. It also faced issues like stinkbug damage, cracking, and sun scald. While the plant was productive, it had a higher percentage of damaged fruit compared to others. The fruit was standard in shape and size, similar to grocery store tomatoes, with an OK flavor. One plant grew to 4 feet and yielded 34 smooth, globe-shaped tomatoes with no cracks, but it still suffered from blossom end rot. Overall, despite some positive aspects, the plant's yield was poor, and it is not recommended for future planting.

