



## **Iowa Gardening**

Spring 2004 issue online exclusive

### **Beyond Big Boy**

Red, round tomatoes are one of the great things about summer in Iowa, but there are splendid minorities in the myriad family of tomato. Here are a few splendid species that break through the red and round stereotype.

### **Yellow/Orange**

- Basinga. Heart-shaped fruits have a mild flavor and red blush on blossom end.
- Beam's Year Pear. Prolific supplier of one-inch pear tomatoes is best for salads and can bear fruit as fast as 70 days from transplant.
- Czech's Excellent Yellow. One of the strongest flavored yellows, these three-inch fruits grow quickly.
- Dr. Wyche's Yellow. Big full pound tomatoes have lots of meat and orange flesh.
- Gold Medal. Yellow with red streaks, these sweet tomatoes are almost acid free.
- Golden Sunray. These slow growing fruits are remarkably consistent in size and shape, and blemish free.
- Marizol Gold. This heirloom came from Germany's Black Forest in the seventeenth century and produces red marbled meat with flat ribs.
- Moonglow. These solid orange sweethearts have very few seeds and deep flavor.
- Nebraska Wedding. Beautiful orange skinned and fleshed fruits come in clusters and are very slow to mature.
- Orange Banana. The name says it all; banana-shaped and orange in color, these are best for sauces.
- Plum Yellow. From Russia, these look extraordinarily like lemons, but taste sweet.
- Roman Candles. These have very smooth skins and are banana shaped.
- Russian Persimmon. Mild flavored fruits are three to four inches in diameter.
- Wapsipinicon Peach. These prolific, certified organic, two-inch fruits from northeast Iowa have fuzzy skin and sweet flavors.
- White Beauties. Flat-bottomed heirlooms have the most acidulous flavor of all yellows.

## **Green Flesh**

- Aunt Ruby's German Green. Huge beefsteak fruits, over a pound each, are sweet with a spicy flavor.
- Black Sea Man. Red centered fruits have odd veins resembling a skeleton.
- Green Zebra. Sweet zingy flavored fruits have green and yellow stripes.
- Tasty Evergreen. Skin ripens to yellow-brown, but flesh remains green, with strong, sweet flavor.

## **Red**

- Black Krim. From the Black Sea, these greenish-black shouldered fruits can turn almost totally black with enough sun and heat.
- Black from Tula. An ugly Russian that some gourmets think is the most delicious of all tomatoes.
- Cherokee Purples. With the color of a dusty rose, these taste a bit smoky.
- Crnkovic Yugoslavian Pink. Deep red and full-shouldered, these prolific plants have full flavors.
- Dad's Mug. Mug-shaped with pink fruits, these have few seeds and mild flavor.
- Federle. These seven-inch-long paste fruits resemble peppers in appearance, but have more full flavor than other banana shaped tomatoes.
- Grandpa's Cock's Plume. Heart-shaped fruits from Siberia have few seeds and weigh up to a pound.
- Hillbilly Potato Leaf. A heavy bearing plant, these produce red fruits that are streaked with gold.
- Long Tom's. These fruits average five inches in length and two inches in diameter, with very few seeds and sweet flavors.
- Red Cup. These hollow tomatoes are good for stuffing.
- Russian Black. Baseball sized fruits have charcoal-red flesh and full flavor.
- Soldacki. These came from Poland in the nineteenth century and bear large dense fruits of pinkish red.
- Striped Cavern. These hollow fruits have thick, yellow-striped walls and keep as long as a month even when harvested ripe.
- Tiger Tom. Gold stripes and tart flavors make this tomato a frequent winner of taste tests.

—Jim Duncan