

# Steve's Tomatoes - Spring 2014

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 its 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-ripened 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 SF Chronicle 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 "drowned" several plants before I figured this out!

### Black Cherry

The only truly black cherry tomato. Seeds came from a "volunteer" plant, (I toss over-ripened 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, tomato-y 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 its 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. Its deep, rich colors stand it apart from others, a dusky, dark-red, with dark-green shoulders, and red flesh in its 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 For 2014

### Maglia Rosa cherry

Saw this featured in the SF Chronicle 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. (Zarnitsa 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-striping (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