

Home Gardeners' Top 5 Tomato Seeds

New to tomato seed buying, I chose which tomatoes to grow by looking at what other home gardeners had chosen to buy and grow.

In this PDF I have detailed all I learnt during my research about each of the Top 5 tomatoes for home gardeners.

Gardeners Delight

Was the most readily available tomato seed for the home grower to buy. Of the 23 sites I looked at it was available from 16.

So what is it about **Gardeners Delight**?

This is what the seed suppliers had to say:

To eat, Gardeners Delight is:

- Sweet but tangy, rich sweet, very sweet, outstanding, exceptionally sweet, juicy
- Cherry, small, bite sized ,2.5 cm fruit
- Red
- Thin skinned

To grow, Gardeners Delight is:

- A Cordon Interderminate
- Or
- Bush
 - Glasshouse or outdoors
 - Heavy crops, consistently prolific, large crop, exceptional cropper
 - Crack resistant
 - Very reliable
 - Long Trusses
 - Habit compact, vigorous
 - Ideal for hanging baskets and patio pot

To buy Gardeners Delight:

There is a wide range in price and number of seeds per packet (anything between 20 and 200 seeds). Average seed priced worked out at .017 pence per seed. But with wide variations. For example from one supplier you can buy 35 seeds for £1.10 and from another 200 seeds for £1.15

Shirley F1

This was Joint 2nd Favourite Tomatoes along with Sungold. Of the 23 seed sites I searched it could be bought from 12.

This is what the seed suppliers had to say:

To eat, Shirley is:

- Medium size
- Uniform size and shape
- One of the nicest tasting, good flavour
- Deep red

To grow, Shirley is:

- Cordon Interderminate
- Favourite greenhouse variety to grow in containers or green house borders, grow in cold or slightly heated greenhouse, especially suited to unheated greenhouses
- Heavy cropping
- Matures early, early into production
- Disease resistant, resistant to TMV, Cladosporium, ABC, Fusarium 1 and 2
- One of the most popular hybrid varieties
- Short jointed, strong plant
- Sets easily
- Trusses, large, closely space, produces an exceptionally heavy bottom truss ,trusses may need stringing to prevent them tearing off
- Habit open easily managed plants, open growing habit, vigorous

To buy Shirley:

Available packet size tended to be between 10 and 20 seeds. Average seed price worked out at 21 pence per seed. But again with variations. For example you can buy 10 seeds from one supplier for £1.50 and 10 seeds from another for £3.50.

Sungold F1

Was Joint 2nd Favourite Tomato along with Shirley. Of the 23 seed sites I searched it could be bought from 12.

This is what the seed suppliers had to say:

To eat, Sungold is:

- High sugar content, very high sugar content, one of the sweetest you can grow, extra sweet, delicious
- Small, 13g fruit, cherry type
- Orange, golden orange, rich orange, golden/bright orange
- Thin skinned

To grow, Sungold is:

- Cordon Interderminate
- Glasshouse or outdoors
- Extremely productive, early summer to late autumn, heavy cropper
- Resistant to TMV and FUs
- Long heavy trusses, heavily laden, large cascading, long string
- Habit vigorous
- Height 250cm
- Spread 60cm

To buy Sungold:

Available packet size tended to be between 10 and 30 seeds. Average seed priced worked out at 16 pence per seed. But again with variations. For example you can buy 10 seeds from one supplier for £2.95 and 30 seeds from another for the same price.

Alicante

Was joint 4th in my seed poll along with Moneymaker. Of the 23 seed sites I searched it could be bought from 11.

This is what the seed suppliers had to say:

To eat, Alicante is:

- Fleshy, good flavour, good tasting ,full flavour
- Uniform size, Medium size
- Red

To grow, Alicante is:

- Cordon Interderminate
- Outdoor or glass, cold greenhouse
- High yield, heavy cropping, heavy crops
- Matures early, quite early
- Resistant to, free from greenback, no greenback
- Most popular amateur tomato, money maker type, improved money maker type, classic older variety, easy to grow

To buy Alicante:

Packets ranged between 50 and 120 seeds per packet. Average seed priced worked out at .016 pence per seed.

MoneyMaker

Was joint 4th in my seed poll along with Alicante. Of the 23 seed sites I searched it could be bought from 11.

This is what the seed suppliers had to say:

To eat, MoneyMaker is:

- Average flavour, excellent flavour, old fashioned flavour
- Medium sized, standard size, round
- Scarlet red
- Smooth skinned

To grow, MoneyMaker is:

- Cordon Interderminate
- Greenhouse or outdoor
- Heavy crop
- Resistant to greenback
- Tall
- Strong
- Large trusses, heavy trusses
- Most famous variety, old favourite

To buy MoneyMaker:

Packets averaged between 50 and 75 seeds per packet. Average seed priced worked out at .016 pence per seed.

Which ever seeds you choose good luck with your tomatoes and here's to a bumper crop!

