



## Welcome to our Tomato catalogue for 2023

What an interesting season it has been. Some plants benefitted from all that water, but sadly many did not, including our tomatoes. They started off well with a warm wet start and lots of good growth. All those cloudy days resulted in very slow ripening and then the dreaded blight hit. Consequently, all our plants got pulled out in March. The result is that it has been a poor year for saving seed and we are depending very much on seed saved from previous years and/or being able to purchase our favourite varieties from other seed savers.

Last seasons winning varieties were Marmande and Tangella- both managed to produce plenty of ripe fruit before succumbing to the blight.

Fingers crossed we have enough to fill your orders plus enough to plant out and save fresh seed for next year.

We have added a couple of new heritage varieties though and our prices have not changed.

You will notice that several of the varieties do not yet have a photo- We will work on that this season- I hope our descriptions help.

### Ordering:

You can order directly off our website at: <https://beehavengardens.nz/tomato>  
If you prefer orders can still be taken by email, please put your contact details, as well as the varieties and numbers you would like.

### Deliveries and prices:

We will still be offering free delivery to *Ongaonga, Tikokino, Waipawa, and Waipukurau* on the *16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>* of October. Please state with a delivery address if you would like this option.

**All tomato plants are \$5.00 each in 1.25litre pots.**

### **Growing notes:**

There is nothing like eating your own sun ripened tomatoes picked fresh from the vine. For about twenty years now we have been growing Tomatoes in CHB, where unlike our northern Hawkes Bay cousins often experience frosts as late as November. To get the best from our plants we sow indoors in August and pot into 1.25 litre pots so that plants have plenty of room for growth before planting outdoors once frosts have finished (for us this is late November). We prefer to grow Heirloom varieties which we believe have the best flavour, thrive outdoors, and do not have the thick skins of many store-bought varieties.

For best flavour and healthy plants, we recommend planting out in your gardens in warm, sheltered and well composted soil. We recommend planting deeply, at least up to their first set of leaves- this will encourage a strong root system as plants will develop roots along the length of the buried stem. Especially helpful for our tall varieties.

Water regularly at the base of plants rather than on the leaves. 1-2 deep waterings a week is preferable to lots of light watering. Feed with comfrey, vermicast tea and/ or seaweed teas fortnightly. All our plants except 'Minibell' and 'Russian red' will need staking.

We are growing some of the varieties Tested by Heritage food crops and found to be high in "tetra-cis-lycopene" this has been discovered to be a form of lycopene which the body is able to easily absorb without needing to cook tomatoes.

For more information check out their website:

[heritagefoodcrops.org.nz/heirloom-tomatoes](http://heritagefoodcrops.org.nz/heirloom-tomatoes).

You can also check us out on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/BeeHavenPlants/](http://www.facebook.com/BeeHavenPlants/)

*Happy growing Louise*

## Large Tomatoes



### **Brandywine pink**

A large Meaty beefsteak type. Fruit can easily weigh over 350gms. A beautiful tasting tomato and our favourite for slicing on bread or toast. This variety has the potato shaped leaf and double flowers.



### **Black Tula**

Our Ugly but tasty favourite. A beefsteak type with a rich spicy flavour. Fruit turns a chocolaty/ burgundy colour when ripe with green shoulders. The plants are best grown in a wire cage rather than a single stake, as the laterals are prolific and very strong. Heavy crops.



### **Moonglow**

A gorgeous rich orange colour, with a dense texture that reminds me of persimmons. Juicy rich flavour. This is one of the varieties which Heritage food crops have identified as being particularly high in Tetra-cis-lycopene.



### **Italiano**

A fantastic saucing variety. Large dense flesh with few seeds, and little juice. Rich red colour. Seeds gifted by an Otane grower. This variety has consistently been one of our earliest producers, with fruit ripening as early as Xmas day. Plants also continue fruiting well into the autumn.



### **Marmande**

A French heirloom. Plants are tolerant of both hot and cool weather. Fruit is a scarlet red ribbed beefsteak with meaty flesh. Regarded as one of the best tasting large tomatoes. Heavy crops. Semi-determinate to 170cm.

## Medium Tomatoes



### **Tangella**

Our most productive variety, producing lots of fruit on each truss. Plants produce consistent medium sized, and blemish free fruit, with good light orange colour. The seed has come from heritage food crops, and fruit has high levels of tetra-cis lycopene. Plants will need staking. Tangella was this season's winner- first to fruit and still produced a decent sized crop



### **Costuluto Fiorentino**

The classic Italian salad tomato. These deep red heavily ribbed fruit slice beautifully into flower shapes making a stunning tomato salad that tastes as good as it looks. Plants are very tall and robust, producing large crops.



### **Cream Sausage**

An unusual looking tomato which we grew for the first-time in 2020, from seeds given to us by a friend. This variety produced ripe fruit very early, about the same time as our cherry tomatoes. We were pleasantly surprised at the lovely flavour. Produces bumper crops over a long time.



### **Russian red**

A strong upright plant with dark green leaves and a tolerance to cooler temperatures. Fruit is a medium sized rich red with good flavour. Staking is not needed in sheltered spots. This variety would suit pot growing.



### **Roma**

The classic paste / saucing tomato. Deep red meaty and low acid. A strong plant to 100cms



## **Green Zebra**

Beautiful green striped fruit with a tangy spicy flavour. Strong plants need staking. Fruit are ripe when they start to get a yellow blush.

### **Small Tomatoes**



## **Whippersnapper**

This is a lovely tomato to add colour to salads and is a prolific grower and producer. Needs a long sturdy stake or frame. Fruit is oval red with a green stripe. Original plants came from "Kahikatea farm" in Poukawa.



## **Ongaonga red**

We have grown this tomato since about 2007. Seed was probably originally from "Gardeners Delight" or "Tommy toe" varieties. Plants are easy care, healthy and prolific producers of medium sized red Cherry tomatoes, with good flavour. Plants need staking.



## **Ildi**

A beautiful oval yellow cherry tomato. Hard to find a yellow with decent flavour, but this seems to be the one. Plants are healthy and produce large crops. This variety also came via "Kahikatea farm". Needs staking.



## **Minibell**

This is the tiniest of our tomatoes. Prolific producer of tiny round, red Cherry tomatoes. This one does not need staking, and is suitable for pot growing.