HERITAGE
FARM & GARDEN

Black Cherry Tomato

Solanum lycopersicum 'Black Cherry'



Black Cherry Tomato fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Black Cherry Tomato fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 3 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Group/Class: Heirloom-Indeterminate

Description:

A perfectly round, complex flavored, heirloom variety; deep red fruit with black overtones ripen early on vigorous plants; sweet and robust, perfect for snacking, salads and pickling; performs well in containers or gardens; stake plants for best results

Edible Qualities

Black Cherry Tomato is an annual vegetable plant that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces small clusters of brick red round tomatoes (which are technically 'berries') with black overtones which are usually ready for picking from early summer to early fall. This is an indeterminate variety, which means it produces fruit throughout the growing season. The tomatoes have a delicious taste and a firm texture.

The tomatoes are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Eating When Cooked/Prepared
- Cooking
- Baking
- Pickling

Planting & Growing

Black Cherry Tomato will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. When planted in rows, individual plants should be spaced approximately 3 feet apart. Because of its vigorous growth habit, it may require staking or supplemental support. This fast-growing vegetable plant is an annual, which means that it will grow for one season in your garden and then die after producing a crop.

This plant can be difficult to integrate into a landscape or flower garden, and is best grown in a designated vegetable garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and it is considered by many to be an heirloom variety.

Black Cherry Tomato is a good choice for the vegetable garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.