



Kevin Milaeger

Milaeger's

Tomato Popularity Poll Results!

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Every once in a while something wonderful happens. In my little plant world, something wonderful happened to me at Tomatomania. Little incidents such as this make my job very rewarding. While I was chopping away at tomatoes, trying to keep up with the demand for the Caprese Bruschetta, a woman I didn't recognize approached me and asked me if I was the Milaeger's tomato blogger. I nodded, and then she produced an envelope, and pressed it into my hand. She explained that it contained seed of a special tomato that had been grown by her family for years. She called it 'Macedonia' and described it as a large, meaty tomato with few seeds, less juice and a slightly sweet flavor. I was delighted to get the seed, and of course I am already looking forward to trying it next year. You don't come across a tomato with a name like 'Macedonia' very often. I am intrigued, to say the least.



Dave and Elsa Milaeger serve up Petite BLTs

An occurrence like this brings to mind the age old tradition of gardeners, that friendly custom of sharing plants and seeds. Such plants are sometimes called "passalong plants." Oftentimes they are grown and passed along for sentimental reasons, so they are not necessarily superior varieties. But I figure most of them must be pretty good. After all, who would save the seed of a bad plant? So I'll try these seeds next May, and to follow in the seed giver's tradition, I'll pass them along to you---for free. There isn't a lot of seed, but all you need to do is track me down when you visit Milaeger's next May, and I'll be happy to give you a free plant of "Macedonia." Ah, the kindness of this stranger warms my heart and brings a smile to my face.





The least I can do is try and pass along that feeling to you.

Another interesting side note to this year's event relates to the popular cherry tomato variety known as 'Sungold.' A couple days before the event, Ron, our head grower, told me that our 'Sungold' plants had no fruit at this time so it would have to be withheld from the competition. I wrinkled my brow. At lunch that same day my mom told me that we could pick any tomatoes off her plants if we needed them for the event. I had planted her tomato plants in early June, 'Sungold' among them.

So we picked all of her 'Sungold' tomatoes, and that was all we had for the event. It ended up being the top vote getter at Tomatomania 2013!

I have finished tabulating the Tomatomania votes for best tasting tomato. We present the results to you in two ways. The first is an [overall list](#) of the polling results, first to last. The second is more telling, I think. It rates the [tomatoes by type](#). If you are interested in cherry tomatoes, for example, why would you want to know how they compared to beefsteaks, or paste tomatoes? But, you can review both lists and see for yourselves. There are always some surprises in the polling data. The poll is not scientific, so there are some flaws in our system (not all participants try all 115 tomatoes!), but it is the best we can do and the main thing is to have fun at the event. We do take the results seriously, though, so we will be tweaking our offerings accordingly for 2014.



Some of you visited our trial vegetable garden in June, when we had a little gathering there. We will be doing another one on Wednesday, September 25, from 5:00-6:30 PM. Like last time, we will be chatting it up with our guests about whatever looks interesting, swapping garden stories, and having a few light refreshments. This is a FREE event. The time is earlier than the last one, because of the shorter day length. Please [email me](#) directly so we can prepare accordingly.



Please [email me](#) if you have any questions or comments.