



"I had no idea there were so many kinds of tomatoes!"

This exclamation is heard daily in the vegetable area of our greenhouses. Currently we are offering over 100 varieties of tomatoes, but there are many thousands of varieties out there, and more are being discovered or created all the time. Every year, one of our tasks is to choose 30-40 new varieties that sound interesting that we can grow to compare to the types we are already growing. (We'd love to try more but space is always at a premium in a commercial greenhouse.) Anyway, when one is forced to limit one's choices, one is more critical and discerning--which is good for our customers. We search books, seed catalogs and of course the internet---looking for varieties that taste great and will perform well in our area. The trial varieties then become part of our annual "blind taste test"----**TOMATOMANIA**. This event is an opportunity for our customers to compare these new varieties to those that we are already growing. Customers then rank their favorites, and we base future offerings on the results. This year Tomatomania is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, so mark your calendars now.



When we obtain seed of varieties we have decided to test, we try to acquire enough that we can make a limited offering of excess plants to our more adventuresome customers. These surplus plants are available now at both of our stores. This offering coincides with our Memorial Day Weekend Sale when you can "buy three plants and get one free" (tomatoes and peppers). The sale starts Thursday, May 21. A list of the trial varieties with brief descriptions can be seen by [clicking here](#).



In addition to the trial tomatoes, we have a number of other trial vegetables that we will also be offering. There are quite a few peppers, eggplant, onions, and more. Like the tomatoes, these vegetables are offered in a 5" pot. There are limited quantities of each. A list of these vegetables can be seen [here](#). Because all of these plants are new to us, we are interested in your feedback---not only on taste, but also garden performance and productivity.



Speaking of new plants, we always have our eye out for any new plants---vegetables, flowers, trees, etc. If you know of certain plants that you'd like to share with us, please let us know and we'll put them on our "Plants for Future Consideration" list.

Today's temperature forecast is well into the 80's. The extended forecast is also very promising. Best of all, the night temperatures are expected to be very favorable, so we are planting our own tomatoes at our homes and we are telling our customers that it is safe to do the same. We look forward to seeing you soon in the veggie department at Milaeger's.