

Finding the Best Tomato Varieties for our Customers



The weather is beginning to show signs of tempering enough for us to start thinking of planting tomatoes and other tender plants. Remember, tomatoes require night temperatures of at least 50 degrees (some experts say 55.) Anything cooler and their growth will be stunted---instead of getting a jump on the season, the plants would regress. At Milaeger's we take tomatoes seriously. We have trial

grown and tasted many hundreds of varieties. Every September we hold a blind taste test known as Tomatomania, and many of our customers get involved in the process. We are currently offering about 75 tomato varieties on our sales lot. They were chosen because of their popularity at previous year's tomato taste tests. Along with these "tried and true" varieties, every year we grow a number of trial plants---varieties that we will grow and later taste, to be compared with the "tried and true" varieties. We always grow extras of these trial types, and we make them available to any customers that are enthusiastic and curious enough to try new, untested types. When you see the names of some of these tomatoes, we're sure you'll see why our interest was piqued----'Big Raspberry,' 'Berkeley Tie Dye,' 'Frankenstein Black,' 'Monomakh's Hat,' 'Stump of the World,'----can you blame us for wanting to taste these tomatoes?



This coming weekend we will offer our current crop of trial tomato plants. There are about 60 kinds. Some are "heirloom" varieties, some are hybrids of heirloom parents, and some are modern hybrids. Many of these plant varieties are in very short supply due to seed availability, but others are reasonably plentiful---we offer all of them on a first come, first served basis. These special plants

will be available when we open Friday morning, May 21. (Due to space limitations at our Sturtevant store, the number of trial varieties will be restricted.)



To see a descriptive list of our 2010 trial varieties please follow [this link to our website](#).

By the way, if you know of a tomato variety that you think we ought to try, we'd love to hear about it. You can tell us about it at gardenquestions@milaegers.com or just tell us about it the next time you come in. Chances are we'll include it in next year's trial.