

TOMATOMANIA 2009



This years Tomatomania was the best ever. Attendance was up sharply, and everything ran smoothly. Those of you who joined us noticed some of the changes we made for 2009. We divided the tomatoes by type so there were nine different tasting areas, rather than one large tasting area. This made for a much faster event, with little or no waiting for tomato tasting. According to the feedback we received, all areas of the event were enjoyed by our guests. [Pictures of the event can be seen by clicking here.](#) We are already making plans for next year's event. If you have any comments that you think would help us improve the event, we'd like to hear them. There is an email link at the end of this piece.

We have begun analyzing the polling data that we collected from you. Although our polling method is of a casual sort, we feel the results are reasonably valid. Your input weighs heavily on our evaluations. Our decisions concerning our 2010 tomato offering will reflect your comments and taste. You will notice on the ["Top 21" results](#) that many of these top vote getters have heretofore been relatively obscure---that is a testimonial to your unbiased voting. You will further notice the absence of many of the "old favorites" such as Burpee Big Boy, Jet Star, Wisconsin 55, and the like. Don't be alarmed---we will not discontinue growing these varieties. The plant sales of the previous year also figure into our plans for the coming year. Our goal is to make people more aware of the great variety of tomato flavors, well beyond the old favorites. Life is short---try something new!



[Click here for the Top 21 and Results by Category.](#)

A few observations concerning the [Tomatomania 2009 taste poll results.](#)

One third of the Top 21 are either yellow/gold or yellow with a red blush.

Nearly 50% of the Top 21 are either cherry or grape tomatoes.

None of the Top 21 are determinate (bush) tomatoes.

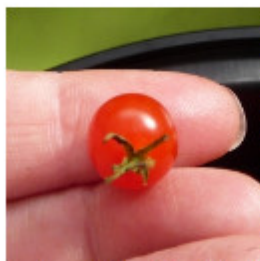
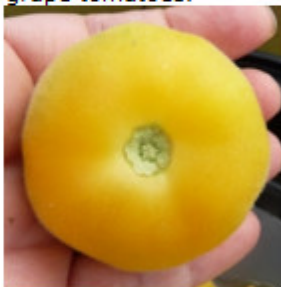
Only one of the Top 21 is a paste tomato.

Only one of the Top 21 is a "black" tomato.

Three of the Top 21 are considered to be "early" varieties.

Five of the Top 21 are generally considered to be "novelty" tomatoes.

Four of the Top 21 are standard, large red tomatoes.



You can deduce what each of these observations means to you. To me, they collectively mean that if I were to grow ten tomato plants, probably five would be varieties that I haven't tried before, and I think they would be indeterminate and not paste tomatoes. Further, at least a couple of them would be something other than red. But, I like to experiment. Despite the results that we show here, I am sure that our best selling plants in spring will be familiar hybrids such as 'Wisconsin 55,' 'Burpee Big Boy,' 'Early Girl,' and the like. We will continue to offer the old favorites, the Tomatomania favorites, and plenty new types to try.

TOMATOMANIA door prizes. We are giving out three door prizes from the 2009 event. The winners are:

Dieter Kreuzpaintner, Racine - one "Texas Tomato Tower"

Katie Traxel, Kenosha - one "Heirloom Tomato Platter"

Derek Quam, Milwaukee - a gift certificate for five tomato plants in 2010

Congratulations and thanks to all for participating.