

ANOTHER
HERB HERBERT
FACT SHEET

SPECIAL INTEREST HERBS

GOURMET VEGETABLES

BETTER BOY TOMATO (*Solanum lycopersicum* 'Better Boy')



DESCRIPTION

A trusted favourite for many years, Better Boy is a widely adapted, very popular home garden variety that has 8oz deep globe fruit with great disease resistance. Better Boy is an excellent variety with big hybrid-quality yields of succulent, juicy yet meaty tomatoes. Plants are vigorous, and heavy foliage helps prevent sunburn. Fruit is large, well flavoured and just keeps producing over a long period. Reaches maturity at approximately 72 days.

basil – the basil will improve growth and flavour and attract bees and ladybirds and deters some pests. Parsley, asparagus, celery, chives, onions and cucumber will improve also tomato growth and flavour and marigold and nasturtium will deter nematodes and insect pests. Do not plant in close proximity to corn or potato. Vine ripened fruit is undoubtedly excellent, but tomatoes can also be ripened successfully by picking fruit when it is just pink in color. While an old wives tale suggests it is best to leave them in a window sill, they will



CULTIVATION

Tomatoes do best in hot climates, with extra water in spring while the fruits are ripening. Tomatoes do best in full sunlight. Grow in rich, moist soil. Plants may be grown in a green house but the flavour is better when grown outside, provided that they ripen properly on the vine before harvesting. The advantages of green house cultivation are earlier and heavier crops, a longer period of fruit production in autumn/fall and a wider choice of suitable varieties.

Soils that are suitable for tomatoes need to be fertile, well drained and moisture retentive. If your current garden bed is not suitable, blood and bone is an ideal fertiliser and can be used safely at planting time, but you will need a potassium source too. For more information on keeping vegetables healthy see our organic gardening fact sheet on the Herb Herbert website.



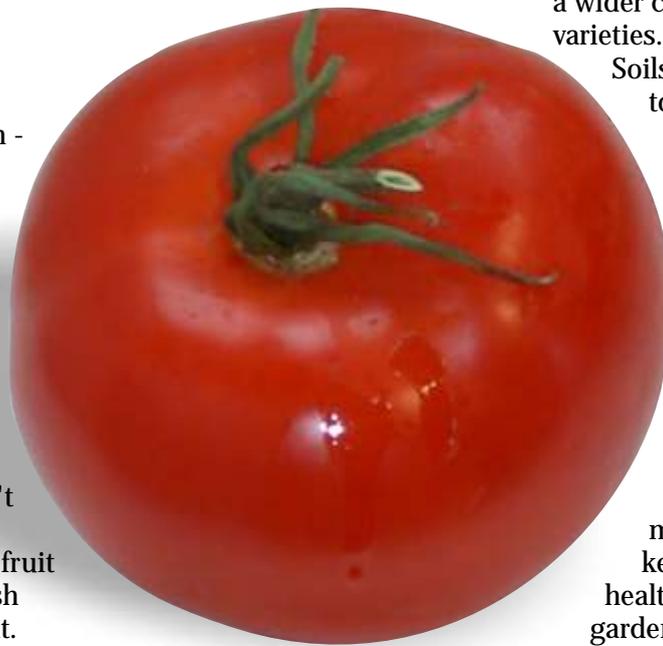
USES

Better Boy is beautiful fresh - ideal for slicing and sandwiches.



GROWTH

Better Boy thrives and produces well in nearly any climate. As an indeterminate variety, it requires staking. You don't need to prune foliage, it protects the stem and the fruit from burning. Overly harsh pruning weakens the plant. You need to shape the staking varieties to one or two leaders and prune laterals. Companion plant tomato with



actually ripen to a better flavor away from direct sunlight.

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