

F RM FRID Y FUN

WITH ARIZONA AGRICULTURE

TOMATO

- Botanically, a tomato is classified as a fruit because it contains seeds and grows from a flowering plant.
- The tomato was classified as a vegetable by the government in 1892 so it could be taxed under custom regulations.
- The majority of tomato varieties are red although other colors such as green, yellow, orange, pink black, brown, white and purple also exist.
- Tomatoes are often grown in greenhouses.
- There are more than 7,500 tomato varieties grown around the world.
- The Guinness World Record for most tomatoes harvested from a single plant over 1 year was 1151.84lbs with 32,194 tomatoes harvested between May 2005 and April 2006. The plant was grown in the experimental greenhouse at Walt Disney World Resort.
- The heaviest tomato ever recorded was 8.41lbs from Minnesota.
- Americans eat 22-45 pounds of ketchup per year. Only half of which is fresh tomatoes. Almost half of our annual consumption comes in the form of ketchup and tomato sauce.
- Nearly 95% of a tomato's weight is water.
- Tomatoes can store longer if you keep them with their stem down.
- It is said that there is over 25,000 tomato varieties.
- Green tomatoes will ripen if you store them with apples.
- Refrigeration decreases the quality and flavor of tomatoes.
- Today, tomatoes are picked before they are ripe to protect them from bruising and spoilage during transport. The tomatoes are then artificially ripened by exposing them to ethylene gas. Ethylene gas is produced naturally by most fruits.

