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The Best of Every Season

Cherokee Purple Tomato

Solanum lycopersicum 'Cherokee Purple'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Group/Class: Heirloom-Indeterminate

Description:

A perfect heirloom variety for large containers and gardens; deep red tomatoes, with overtones of dark purple, are produced all season long; rich-full flavor, great for sandwiches, slicing, salads or fresh eating; staking or caging is recommended

Edible Qualities

Cherokee Purple Tomato is an annual vegetable plant that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces brick red tomatoes (which are technically 'berries') with a deep purple blush and brick red flesh which are usually ready for picking from early summer to early fall. This is an indeterminate variety, which means it produces fruit throughout the growing season. The tomatoes have a delicious taste and a firm texture.

The tomatoes are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Eating When Cooked/Prepared
- Cooking
- Baking



Cherokee Purple Tomato fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Cherokee Purple Tomato fruit and flesh
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Cherokee Purple Tomato will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When planted in rows, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. Because of its vigorous growth habit, it may require staking or supplemental support. This fast-growing vegetable plant is an annual, which means that it will grow for one season in your garden and then die after producing a crop.

This plant can be integrated into a landscape or flower garden by creative gardeners, but is usually grown in a designated vegetable garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and it is considered by many to be an heirloom variety.

Cherokee Purple Tomato is a good choice for the vegetable garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.