

200.1938 1/2.1142

SPECIAL BULLETIN 290

Inst. ang. Bot.  
Hamburg

K. 12  
Kapsel 3 &  
1938/1142 APRIL 1938



Uni HH / Inst. f. angew. Botanik / Bibl.



06073192 0

# TOMATO VARIETIES

*By Gordon Morrison*

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE :: AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
SECTION OF HORTICULTURE  
EAST LANSING

W

### OX HEART

Ox Heart is similar in season and in type of vine to Ponderosa but has very large heart-shaped pink fruits which vary from 8 ounces to as much as 2¼ lbs. in weight and are rather commonly 12 to 16 ounces. The variety was introduced in 1925 by The Livingston Seed Company who are unable to report its parentage since the original seed came to them from one of their customers who probably discovered it as a "sport" among a few plants in his garden (33). For a few years the stocks were rather variable. However, very uniform stocks are now available, although malformed and doubled fruits may be found on most plants.

Ox Heart is a worthy member of that group of varieties which bears extremely large fruits of notably thick flesh, mild flavor and few seeds and which so delight many home gardeners. The group includes red, pink and yellow fruited forms of Ox Heart as well as Ponderosa. The varieties are limited to home and nearby market garden use because the fruits are so large and tender.

### PARAGON

Paragon was introduced by The Livingston Seed Company in 1870 (32) and was said by them to be "the first perfectly smooth, deep red tomato ever offered to the American people." It was listed as a superior canning variety for a great many years but has been superseded by such varieties as Marglobe and Stone which are better.

### PENN STATE

This is the result of selection by C. E. Myers following a cross between Penn State Earliana and the determinate (self-topping) variety, Cooper's Special. Two samples in trial at Rochester in 1936 proved to be little if any earlier than Bonny Best and at least a few days later than Earliana. The plants are very compact and are determinate in habit with a spread hardly two-thirds as great as that of Earliana. Penn State is very prolific. The fruits compare favorably in size with Bonny Best, are globular, red and ripen up well but the variety is not yet strictly uniform in type. The fruits of Penn State are less susceptible to circular cracks than those of Earliana but are more susceptible than Bonny Best.

### PEPPER TOMATO

Samples of Pepper Tomato in trial at Rochester in 1925 and 1930 proved to be rather late but otherwise somewhat similar to Gulf State Market.

### PERFECTION

Perfection is a mid-season general-purpose variety which the originators describe as "an improved Acme with red skin." It was originated by The Livingston Seed Company in 1880 (32) who developed the variety from a red-fruited plant found in a field of Acme. Perfection is still listed by a few seedsmen but Marglobe is a better variety.

A sample of "Perfection" from Mexico, in trial in 1936, proved to be a late variety with flattened globe shaped red fruits, later than Marglobe and with slightly flatter fruits.

### PONDEROSA

**Synonyms or Similar Varieties**—Brimmer; Colossal; Grand Pacific; Majestic; Monarch; New Colossal; New King; New Smooth Ponderosa; Peak of Perfection; Purple Ponderosa; Winsall. See also Beefsteak. Tenderloin, in trial in 1905, had fruits which were similar to Ponderosa but smaller and flatter. Red Majestic and Scarlet Ponderosa differ from Ponderosa chiefly in bearing red rather than pink fruits. Geever's Mammoth Orange, Golden Ponderosa, Orange, and Yellow Ponderosa are varieties with yellow or orange fruits but otherwise similar to Ponderosa. Dwarf Giant and Dwarf Ponderosa are

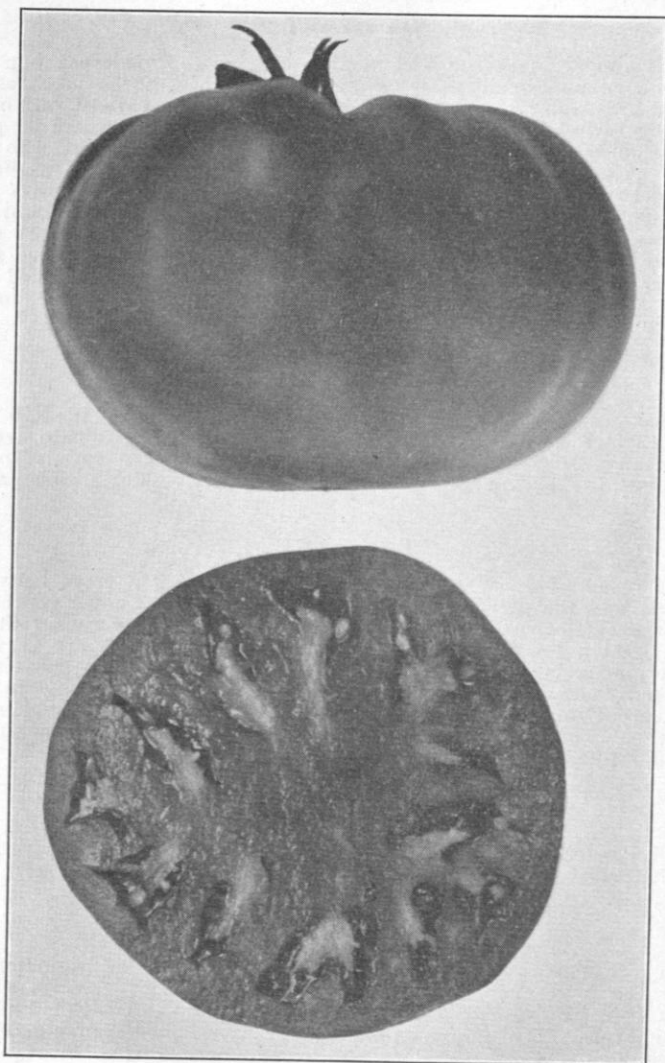


Fig. 13. Ponderosa (about two-thirds natural diameter).

varieties which are dwarf in stature like Dwarf Stone but bear fruits like those of Ponderosa.

**Season**—Late. Well grown young plants set out about June 1 usually yield a few ripe fruits in 85 to 90 days or during the latter part of August. It is usually a little later than Stone.

**Plants**—Very large, open and spreading, with numerous slender branches and rather slender fine textured light green foliage. The plants commonly attain a spread of 7 to 9 or 10 feet under favorable conditions. The fruits are usually borne in clusters of 3 to 5.

**Fruits**—Large to extremely large. They are usually rather flat but fairly deep and often oval in transverse cross-section. The fruits commonly weigh 9 to 16 ounces and sometimes as much as two pounds. They are usually  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick but are sometimes much larger. The fruits are deep pink. They are sometimes smooth but more often corrugated, with a broad deep stem end cavity and scar and pronounced blossom end scar and depression. Frequently the fruits are lobed and doubled. The skin is colorless. Interior red. The outer walls and partition walls are very thick. The cells are numerous and irregular and are well filled with pulp but bear few seeds. The central mass is very large, firm, and fleshy. Sometimes a large hard core detracts from the quality of the fruit. The flavor is notably mild and is sometimes referred to as non-acid. Many housewives consider Ponderosa the standard of excellence for slicing raw.

**Adaptability and Uses**—Ponderosa is the most widely grown very large late "pink" tomato. It is best adapted to home garden culture in regions of fairly long growing season but is sometimes grown for nearby market use. The lateness of the variety and the large size and tender nature of the fruits makes them unsuitable for shipping purposes.

**Comparison**—Ponderosa is usually a little later than Globe and about a week earlier than Ox Heart. The fruits are much larger, flatter and rougher than Globe. The fruits are much flatter than the heart-shaped fruits of Ox Heart but both varieties produce many rather rough coarse malformed or flattened fruits.

**History**—Ponderosa was introduced by Peter Henderson & Co. in 1891 as Number 400. A cash prize was offered for a suitable name. In 1892 the variety was named Ponderosa (6). A variety similar to Ponderosa, but later, with darker foliage and larger fruits was listed as Number 400 by Peter Henderson & Co. in 1924 and as Winsall in 1925, following a prize contest for the selection of a name.

### PRAIRIANA

Prairiana is a second early variety with deep but flattened red fruits. It is resistant to Fusarium wilt. It was selected at the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station in 1926 (26) out of a variety test of Marvana but the plant is larger and the variety is later than Marvana. Prairiana has not been in trial at Rochester but it is said by Huelsen to do well in Illinois on well drained, dark-colored silt and clay loams of the prairie type where other varieties frequently run to vine. It is said to demonstrate its superiority in adverse seasons especially.

### PRIDE OF ILLINOIS

A sample of this in trial at Rochester in 1936, proved to be a very thrifty, large-veined type with heavy foliage and later in season than Marglobe. The fruits were large, red, flat but usually fairly deep and many had rather large and disfiguring blossom scars. This limited trial indicates the variety is very inferior to Marglobe for culture in Michigan. However, Huelsen (26) says that "Illinois Pride" has given satisfactory results as a market tomato and shipper in trials in southern and in northern Illinois.