

RESEARCH BULLETIN 734

SEPTEMBER, 1960

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

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# The Tomboy Tomato

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(Publication authorized September 15, 1960)

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# The Tomboy Tomato

Many home gardeners still prefer a tomato of the Ponderosa, Beefsteak, or Winsall type over the new improved tomato varieties and hybrids. These varieties are characterized by large, meaty fruit and are considered somewhat milder in taste than most garden varieties. Performance of the "beefsteak" varieties, however, is often disappointing because of poor fruit set, roughness of fruit, lateness in maturity and poor foliage cover.

With the development of several wilt resistant breeding lines having satisfactory fruit size and quality, a backcrossing program was initiated to combine the desirable characteristics of the Winsall tomato with the earliness, productivity, and wilt resistance prevailing in certain breeding lines. Although several crosses involving lines of diverse background were used in this program, Tomboy (previously line 016-25-5) proved to have the smoothest fruit and was the most consistent yielder of many selections made from the crosses.

## Pedigree

As will be noted below, the pedigree of Tomboy includes several varieties contributing genes for earliness. The wilt resistance (immunity type) was derived from Missouri Accession 160 of *Lycopersicon pimpinellifolium* Mill. U.S.D.A. A-2116 which was selected from P.I. 79532.

Tomboy = 016-25-5 = 11-200-11

Earliana x Mo. Accession 160 x Break-O-Day x Bison x Break-O-Day, open pollinated x Early Stone x Early Stone, open pollinated 3 generations x Winsall, open pollinated x Winsall, selected 8 generations.

## Varietal Description

### *Fruit*

The fruit of Tomboy is very large, somewhat flattened, slightly irregular in shape, with numerous small locules and few seeds. This locular arrangement and thick fruit walls contribute to the solidness and meatiness of the variety. The fruit color is a purplish-pink typical of Winsall.

### *Plant and Foliage*

Tomboy has an indeterminate growth habit which, when untrained, results in a vigorous, rangy vine. While it can be grown successfully "on the ground," it is perhaps better suited for training to a stake or trellis. An intermediate internode length and medium leaflet size provide fairly good foliage cover for protection of the fruit from sunscald. The foliage, although more resistant to leaf diseases than that of Winsall and Ponderosa, requires a good fungicide spray program to prevent premature defoliation and to maintain sufficient cover over the production season.

### *Maturity*

Tomboy is approximately two weeks earlier in maturity than Winsall. It averages about 70 days from field transplanting to first harvest. During the 1959 season under ground culture Tomboy produced 11.5 tons per acre, yielding 66 percent of this during the first two weeks of harvest, compared to 5.3 tons per acre or 53 percent for Rutgers, a main season variety.

### **Performance Tests**

Tomboy has proven to be a dependable variety in several years of "observational" trials and in replicated tests during the 1957 and 1959 seasons. Part of this dependability is due to its early maturity; heavy fruit set occurs before the high summer temperatures, which reduce the productiveness of later maturing varieties. Under irrigation, however, and with an adequate disease program, set has been continued through the summer months with production terminated only by frost in the fall. The performance of Tomboy in a replicated, irrigated, "ground" test planting in 1959 is summarized in Table 1.



TABLE 1-COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE OF TOMBOY WITH COMMONLY-GROWN TOMATO VARIETIES.  
HORTICULTURE EXPERIMENTAL FARM, FRANKLIN, MO. 1959

| Variety     | Yield of Marketable Fruit* |        |        | Size of Fruit |        |        |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|
|             | to 7/20                    | to 8/3 | season | to 7/20       | to 8/3 | season |
| Tomboy      | 3.23                       | 11.53  | 17.43  | 10.35         | 11.33  | 8.98   |
| Rutgers     | 1.17                       | 5.28   | 9.90   | 6.80          | 6.49   | 5.33   |
| Homestead   | 2.27                       | 9.47   | 12.40  | 6.85          | 6.10   | 5.62   |
| Surprise Hy | 2.67                       | 12.27  | 15.63  | 7.04          | 6.14   | 5.58   |
| Supreme Hy  | 1.93                       | 9.07   | 16.73  | 6.45          | 6.75   | 5.58   |
| K 146       | 2.60                       | 10.60  | 16.93  | 8.05          | 7.33   | 6.30   |
| K 135       | 2.48                       | 9.21   | 16.34  | 8.93          | 8.16   | 6.64   |

\*Transplanted to field May 11, 1959. Row spacing 6 feet, plants in row 2 feet. Ten-plant plots in triplicate.  
 Plowed down 300 lbs/A. 13-39-0; 200 lbs/A. 0-0-60  
 Sidedressed 120 lbs/A. 13-39-0 on 6/10/59  
     100 lbs./A. 33-0-0 on 7/1/59  
     100 lbs/A. 33-0-0 on 8/3/59  
 Applied 2 inches irrigation water on 6/15/59  
 Applied 2 inches irrigation water on 6/27/59  
 Plants untrained. Harvest period 7/9/59-9/3/59.