

## Evaluation of Home Garden Tomato Varieties in New Jersey

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Twelve varieties of tomatoes were evaluated for yield and quality attributes at the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center (RAREC) in Bridgeton, New Jersey. The trial was planted on May 4, 2006 with 8 plants per plot with 3 replications on high raised beds at 5' centers. Plants were staked and tied three times. Harvest began on July 20 with the last harvest on August 11. Tomatoes were harvested weekly and graded and weighed on the same day. They were categorized as edible or inedible. Inedible tomatoes were those with any amount of rot, excessive cracking, or excessive insect damage. Taste testing was conducted at the Gloucester County Fair and at a twilight meeting at RAREC. 'Early Girl' had the highest yield with an average season weight per plant of 9.7 lbs. 'Champion', 'Celebrity', 'Beefmaster' and 'Supersteak' followed with weights of 8.5, 8.2, 8.1, and 8.0 respectively. 'Rutgers' had the lowest yield, averaging just 5.1 lbs per plant for the season.

**Table 1.** 2006 Tomato Yields in Edible Pounds Per Plant Total For Season  
From RAREC

<u>Variety</u>	<u>LB/Plant</u>
Early Girl	9.71
Champion	8.53
Celebrity	8.24
Beefmaster	8.09
Supersteak	8.00
Mountain Fresh	7.62
Jet Star	7.61
Better Boy	6.60
Supersonic	6.47
Big Boy	6.30
Sanibel	5.98
Rutgers	5.09

**Table 2.** Taste Test Results from Gloucester County Fair for 7 Varieties In Order of Best to Worst Tasting

1=Poor 2=Fair 3=Good  
4=Very Good 5=Excellent

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Overall Taste Rating</u>
Better Boy	3.4
Supersteak	3.3
Beefmaster	3.2
Mountain Fresh	2.9
Jet Star	2.8
Supersonic	2.8
Celebrity	2.1

**Table 3.** Taste Test Results from RAREC for 10 Varieties

1=Poor 2=Fair 3=Good  
4=Very Good 5=Excellent

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Overall Taste Rating</u>
Big Boy	4
Jet Star	4
Superstar	3
Supersonic	3
Better Boy	3
Beefmaster	3
Rutgers	3
Supersteak	3
Champion	3
Mountain Fresh	2
Sanibel	2