

2021 Tomato Trial Summary

Health and Survival

- Health plunged for all varieties after July.
- By September, “Atkinson” was the least healthiest, with a rating below 1.
- No tomato plant had a rating above 2.5 in August and September.
- “Abe Lincoln” had the highest survival by September at 100%, followed by “Cherokee Purple” at 90%, “Red Snapper” at 92%, and “Purple Calabash” at 91%. Lowest survival was “Atkinson” at 50%.

Production

- Production was highest in July and August.
- Flowering for all varieties was above 50% in August.
- Dime sized sets were greatest in July.
- “Purple Calabash” was the only variety that managed to hit new sets above 50%, though “Cherokee Purple” and “Valley Cat” hit 50% in August.
- “Celebrity” and “Cherokee Purple” had the best production in August.

Overall Impression

On a scale of 1-3, where 3 is positive, 2 is neutral and 1 is negative

- “Big Beef” had the highest positive impression, at a 2.8 rating
- “Purple Calabash” had the lowest impression, at a 2.0 rating. Comments on this variety mentioned the smaller size and unusual shape of the fruit.

Next Year

I want to thank you all for participating, but unfortunately the tomato trial will not be continued next year. If you liked some of these varieties, you can grow them yourself, or check out Friendly Natives or Plant Haus 2 in Kerrville.

Appendix 1

Tomato Variety	June Average production	July Average production	August Average Production
Abe Lincoln	1	6	6
Atkinson	0	4	9
Bella Rosa	2	4	2
Big Beef	1	7	5
Celebrity	1	8	11
Cherokee Purple	0	4	10
Purple Calabash	0	6	8
Red Snapper	1	5	3
Valley Cat	1	8	8

Table 1. 2021 Production, with both surviving and dead plants counted in.

Tomato Variety	Impression
Abe Lincoln	2.64
Atkinson	2.20
Bella Rosa	2.45
Big Beef	2.83
Celebrity	2.52
Cherokee Purple	2.44
Purple Calabash	2.00
Red Snapper	2.75
Valley Cat	2.75

Table 2. 2021 variety impression, based off a scale of 1-3. Three is positive, 2 is neutral, 1 is negative.

Variety	June Health Rating	July Health Rating	August Health Rating	September Health Rating
Abe Lincoln	2.93	2.77	2.27	2.27
Atkinson	2.92	2.60	1.50	0.70
Bella Rosa	2.87	2.57	2.27	1.67
Big Beef	2.93	2.92	2.31	1.58
Celebrity	2.93	2.84	2.08	1.60
Cherokee Purple	2.92	3.00	2.10	2.30
Purple Calabash	3.00	2.87	2.46	2.27
Red Snapper	2.87	2.73	2.15	1.31
Valley Cat	2.93	2.79	2.07	1.30

Table 3. 2021 health ratings. 0=dead. 1=80-100% leaf loss, lots of yellow leaves and severe disease and insect issues, but not dead yet. 2= some insect and disease damage but still growing and mostly green. 3= healthy and green, rare insect damage and no signs of disease.

Variety	June Percent Producing	July Percent Producing	August Percent Producing	September Percent Producing
Abe Lincoln	14.29	69.23	90.91	72.73
Atkinson	8.33	90.91	50.00	30.00
Bella Rosa	53.33	78.57	63.64	83.33
Big Beef	40.00	76.92	69.23	50.00
Celebrity	43.33	88.46	84.00	60.00
Cherokee Purple	0.00	53.85	90.00	50.00
Purple Calabash	6.67	60.00	92.31	81.82
Red Snapper	46.67	86.67	69.23	69.23
Valley Cat	40.00	85.71	64.29	50.00

Table 4. 2021 percentage of each variety reported producing at least one tomato.

Survival	May	June	July	August	September
Abe Lincoln	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Atkinson	100.00	100.00	91.67	83.33	50.00
Bella Rosa	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	83.33
Big Beef	93.33	93.33	92.86	92.31	75.00
Celebrity	100.00	100.00	96.30	96.00	80.00
Cherokee Purple	100.00	92.86	92.31	90.00	90.00
Purple Calabash	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	90.91
Red Snapper	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	92.31
Valley Cat	100.00	93.33	93.33	92.86	60.00

Table 5. 2021 Percentage of each variety alive, based off number of plants responding per month. If plant was reported as dead, that was automatically carried over to the next month.