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Golden Delight Tomato



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Golden Delight Tomato

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INTRODUCTION

Seed companies and home gardeners have often expressed a desire for a yellow tomato variety with a compact vine capable of concentrating a heavy fruit set early in the season, but with enough foliage to produce a crop without sunburn. A heavy, early set is desirable to take advantage of the short growing season in northern states. Due to limited space in the home garden, growers are interested in small plants for high yields per unit area.

Golden Delight has exhibited many of these qualities in several years of crossing and individual plant selection and testing. As with all yellow varieties and hybrids commercially available at this time, Golden Delight possesses some weaknesses and may as a variety find only limited use; however, Golden Delight is early and produces high total yields for gardeners interested in yellow tomatoes.

DESCRIPTION

Plant and Foliage

Vines are determinant. The internodes are short which results in a compact plant with fairly good foliage cover. Plants are about 30 inches in diameter and leaflets are medium in size and light green in color. Because of susceptibility to some foliage diseases, good disease control is essential to maintain leaf cov-

er. Golden Delight is not suitable for staking.

Fruit

The fruit of Golden Delight is bright golden orange, global, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches across and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in depth, smooth and uniform. It is uniform in ripening. The stem attachment is small, slightly inset with smooth shoulders free of radial and concentric cracks. The fruit is "meaty" with thick outer and inner locular walls and six or more locules. Skin quality of Golden Delight contributes to its ability to hold up well during handling. The flesh, which is high in vitamins A and C, is bright golden orange with little core at the stem connection. The plant has relatively early concentrated fruit set and maturity. The fruit is medium in size and averages about 5 ounces per fruit.

Maturity

Golden Delight matures earlier than any other yellow tomato recommended in this area. The fruit matures in about 55-57 days. Golden Delight produced between 10.0 and 13.7 pounds of fruit per plant each year in 3 years of testing. It produces about 85% of its total yield by September 1, as compared to about 25% of total yield by September 1 for Sunray and 33% for Hybrid Mandarin Cross.

Table 1. Comparative performance of Golden Delight with commonly grown tomato varieties, Horticulture Experiment Farm, Brookings.

| Variety | Yield of marketable fruit pounds/plant by Sept. 1 | | | Total yield of marketable fruit pounds/plant | | | Average fruit size for season oz./fruit | | |
|------------------|---|------|-------|--|-------|-------|---|------|------|
| | 1968 | 1969 | 1971 | 1968 | 1969 | 1971 | 1968 | 1969 | 1971 |
| Golden Delight | 9.91 | 8.51 | 11.03 | 13.55 | 10.20 | 13.67 | 4.9 | 5.1 | 0 |
| Hybrid Mandarin | | | | | | | | | |
| Cross | 1.03 | 0.91 | 1.00 | 3.50 | 3.20 | 3.32 | 5.8 | 5.2 | 6.2 |
| Sunray | 1.02 | 1.15 | 1.30 | 4.80 | 4.15 | 4.60 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 6.0 |
| Fireball | 9.10 | 8.68 | 4.38 | 11.08 | 10.20 | 12.00 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.5 |
| Golden Boy | | | 5.13 | | | 9.94 | | | 6.7 |

The ability of the Golden Delight to consistently produce good yields during the early part of the growing season is one of its most noteworthy characteristics.



Fruit is global with smooth shoulders free of cracks, it is meaty and ripens uniformly.

COVER PHOTO: Determinate growth habit of Golden Delight results in a compact plant with early concentrated fruit set and ripening.



Pedigree of Golden Delight

