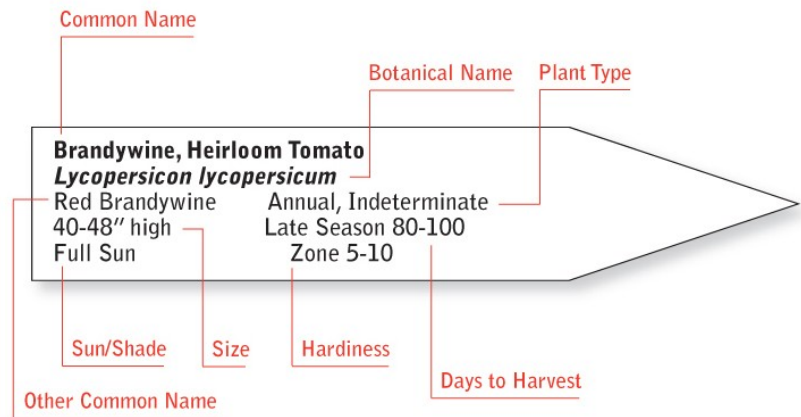


WHAT DOES THE PLANT TAG MEAN?

Open-pollinated (OP)- plants have parents of the same variety and reproduce true to seed, so their seeds can be saved and replanted with the resulting plants resembling their parents.

Heirloom vegetables are open-pollinated plants that have been cultivated for at least 50 years. They are often more flavorful, colorful, and interesting than hybrids, but they may be challenging to grow if your soil is disease prone.



Hybrid plants- are the result of crossbreeding to produce offspring with desirable traits, such as disease resistance or uniform color or size. As a result, hybrids will not usually reproduce true to seeds you take from the fruit. New seeds of those varieties must be planted each season.

Determinate - Tomatoes that are determinate make little or no growth once fruit is set. Most of the fruit develops at the same time.

Indeterminate- Indeterminate plants keep producing new shoots, flowers and fruit throughout the growing season.

The other acronym refers to disease resistance.

- **V: resistant or tolerant to verticillium wilt-** A tomato variety with this letter listed after the name is resistant or tolerant to verticillium wilt, a disease caused by a fungus that lives in cool moist soil and works its way into the plants vascular system through its roots, clogging the water conducting tissue in the plant, which prevents water from reaching the stems and leaves.
- **F: fusarium wilt is resistant or tolerant-** this has similar symptoms to verticillium wilt, but is a different fungus. Plants will begin to wilt, drop leaves, and begin to get chlorotic, meaning the leaves begin yellowing.
- **N: Nematode resistance-** refers to organisms living in the soil. Nematodes can be beneficial as well as a pest such as the one that attacks the roots of tomatoes, called root-knot nematode. The N denotes a resistance to this nematode.
- **T: Resistance to tobacco mosaic virus-** Tomatoes and tobacco are in the same family, Solanacea, and are susceptible to a virus that causes the leaves to be come mottled and discolored, creating a mosaic-like pattern that gives the disease, tomato mosaic virus, its name.
- **A: Alternaria-** is a mold that thrives on certain vegetation including tomatoes. It usually shows up as small black spots on the bottom of the fruit.

Soil Service Garden Center, Inc.

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