

# **Big Beef Tomatoes (Hybrid)**

## **Growth Habit:**

- Big Beef tomatoes are indeterminate, meaning they continue to grow and produce fruit throughout the season.

## **Best Uses:**

- These large, meaty tomatoes are ideal for slicing and adding to sandwiches or burgers. They can also be used in salads, sauces, or for canning.

## **Growing Information:**

- Big Beef tomatoes prefer full sun and well-draining, fertile soil with a pH of 6.0 to 6.8.
- Start seeds indoors 6 to 8 weeks before your last frost date, and transplant seedlings outdoors after hardening off.
- Space plants 24 to 36 inches apart, and provide support using stakes or cages, as they can grow quite large (5 to 7 feet tall with a 2 to 3-foot spread).

## **Maintenance Information:**

- Prune suckers to encourage fruit production and maintain plant structure.
- Water consistently, providing 1 to 2 inches of water per week.
- Fertilize with a balanced tomato fertilizer every 3 to 4 weeks.

## **Pest Management:**

- Monitor for common tomato pests such as aphids, whiteflies, and spider mites.
- Check for signs of fungal diseases like early blight or late blight, and remove infected leaves promptly.

## **Companion Plants:**

- Good companion plants for Big Beef tomatoes include basil, marigolds, and nasturtiums, which help repel pests.
- Avoid planting tomatoes near fennel, potatoes, or other members of the nightshade family.