

# Carbon Tomatoes (Heirloom)

**Growth Habit:** Indeterminate, tall and vining, with plants reaching 6 to 10 feet in height. Suitable for warmer climates and long growing seasons.

**Best Uses:** Fresh eating, slicing, and salads. Known for their rich flavor and unique dark purple color.

## **Growing Information:**

- Full sun
- Well-draining soil with a pH of 6.0 to 6.8
- Start seeds indoors 6 to 8 weeks before the last frost
- Transplant seedlings outdoors after hardening off
- Space plants 24 to 36 inches apart
- Provide strong support for vines (e.g., tomato cages or trellises)

## **Maintenance Information:**

- Prune suckers and lower leaves 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 like aphids, whiteflies, and spider mites
- Watch for signs of fungal diseases like early blight and late blight, and remove infected leaves promptly

## **Companion Plants:**

- Good companion plants for Carbon tomatoes include basil, marigolds, and nasturtiums, which help repel pests and promote beneficial insects.
- Avoid planting tomatoes near fennel, potatoes, or other members of the nightshade family to prevent disease and pests from spreading.