

Japanese Black Trifele Tomatoes (Heirloom)

Growth Habit: Indeterminate, reaching up to 5 to 6 feet in height. Requires a long growing season (80 to 85 days).

Best Uses: Fresh eating, salads, and cooking. Known for their unique pear-shaped fruit with green-streaked shoulders, deepening to a burnished mahogany, and finally to a darkened, almost black color. They have a rich, smoky flavor.

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 Japanese Black Trifele 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.