

# Mortgage Lifter Tomatoes (Heirloom)

**Growth Habit:** Indeterminate, with vines that can reach 7 to 9 feet in height. Requires strong support, such as tomato cages, trellises, or stakes.

**Best Uses:** Slicing, sandwiches, and cooking. Known for their meaty, pinkish-red fruit with few seeds, these beefsteak-type tomatoes are perfect for a wide range of culinary uses.

## **Growing Information:**

- Full sun (at least 6 hours of direct sunlight)
- Well-draining, acidic 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

## **Maintenance Information:**

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

## **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 Mortgage Lifter 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.