

# **Mr. Stripey Tomatoes (Heirloom)**

**Growth Habit:** Indeterminate, with vines that can reach 8 to 10 feet tall. Requires strong support, such as tall cages, stakes, or trellises.

**Best Uses:** Fresh eating, salads, and cooking. Known for their vibrant yellow and red bi-color appearance and mild, sweet-tart flavor, these tomatoes make a beautiful addition to various dishes.

## **Growing Information:**

- Full sun (at least 6 hours of direct sunlight)
- Well-draining, rich, loamy 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, keeping the soil evenly moist throughout the growing season
- Fertilize with a balanced tomato fertilizer regularly
- 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 Mr. Stripey 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.