

Paul Robeson Tomatoes (Heirloom)

Growth Habit: Indeterminate, with long, vining plants that require staking or trellising for support. They can reach heights of 6 to 8 feet tall and have a more sprawling, less compact growth habit than some other tomato varieties.

Best Uses: Fresh eating, slicing, sandwiches, and cooking. These tomatoes are known for their meaty texture, sweet flavor, and striking pinkish-red color with marbling, making them an excellent choice for a wide range of culinary applications.

Growing Information:

- Full sun (at least 6 hours of direct sunlight)
- Well-draining, fertile 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 Paul Robeson 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.