

Purple Calabash Tomatoes (Heirloom)

Growth Habit: Indeterminate, with long vines that continue to grow and produce fruit until frost. These plants can reach heights of 6 to 8 feet tall and require vertical support, such as staking or cages, due to their heavy yields.

Best Uses: Fresh eating, slicing, sandwiches, and salads. Known for their distinctive, smoky purple-esque color and ruffled, flattened shape, these tomatoes offer a unique flavor experience that combines sweetness, acidity, and smokiness.

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 Purple Calabash 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.