Rich heirloom fruits are dark red, almost brown on top, and very juicy inside. They have a sweet, smoky flavour. The fruits are 7.5-10cm (3-4”) in diameter. Soft and thin-skinned fruits on vigorous plants. Indeterminate plants. 80 days, OP.

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Smaller, determinate varieties (Bush) have a concentrated fruit set; indeterminate (Vines) need to be staked or trellised.

Timing: Start transplants indoors March-April.

Seeding: In a sterile seed starter mix, sow seeds 1cm (½”) deep in individual pots. Soil temperature must be at least 21°C (70°F). Pot up into larger pots as needed.

Growing: To reduce legginess, provide strong light very close to the seedlings (10cm/4”) and use a fan to provide air circulation. Harden off by gradually exposing to overnight temperatures, then transplant cold-hardy varieties in mid-late April, and main season types in mid-late May on the Coast.

Seed Specs:

Canada No.1 germination rate: 75%. Usual seed life: 3 years.