

# Small Wonder, Northern Delight, and Nodak Early Tomatoes

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The Department of Horticulture and Forestry has announced the release of three new tomato varieties, 'Small Wonder', 'Northern Delight' and 'Nodak Early'. These varieties mature their fruit very early and are classified as ultra early. Ultra early tomatoes begin ripening their fruit after 1000 heat units between 50 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit. They also have the characteristic of setting fruit at cool temperatures.

Small Wonder and Northern Delight are small-fruited varieties (1- to 2-inch) while Nodak Early bears 3-inch fruit. These are early crop tomatoes and should be considered for use in cool areas and where it is desirable to extend the season with early fruit. All three of these tomato varieties are suitable for fresh use and can also be used in processing for juice, sauce or for salsas.

Small Wonder is an ultra early cherry tomato. The vine is small, determinate or bush type with good foliage cover. It has been observed to be infected with both septoria leaf spot and early blight during high humidity seasons. The fruit are a 1-ounce globe, bright red and under some conditions will have green shoulders. Each plant bears many fruit which ripen over a three- to four-week period. Fruit ripening begins 45 to 50 days after transplanting. This variety is recommended for home and market gardens as an early salad tomato.

Northern Delight is similar to Small Wonder but has a somewhat larger vine and larger fruit. It is very productive and the fruit are of good quality. It begins to ripen five to seven days later than Small Wonder.

Nodak Early is a very early variety. The plant is compact and determinate with dark green foliage. Its branches are somewhat rigid and hold the fruit off the soil. The 3-inch fruit are nearly round. They are dark red and of good quality. The fruit may have green shoulders under certain environmental conditions. Fruit ripening begins at about the same time as Northern Delight and is concentrated into a three to four week period.

Seed of these varieties is available from the author. Breeders seed will be provided to seed companies.



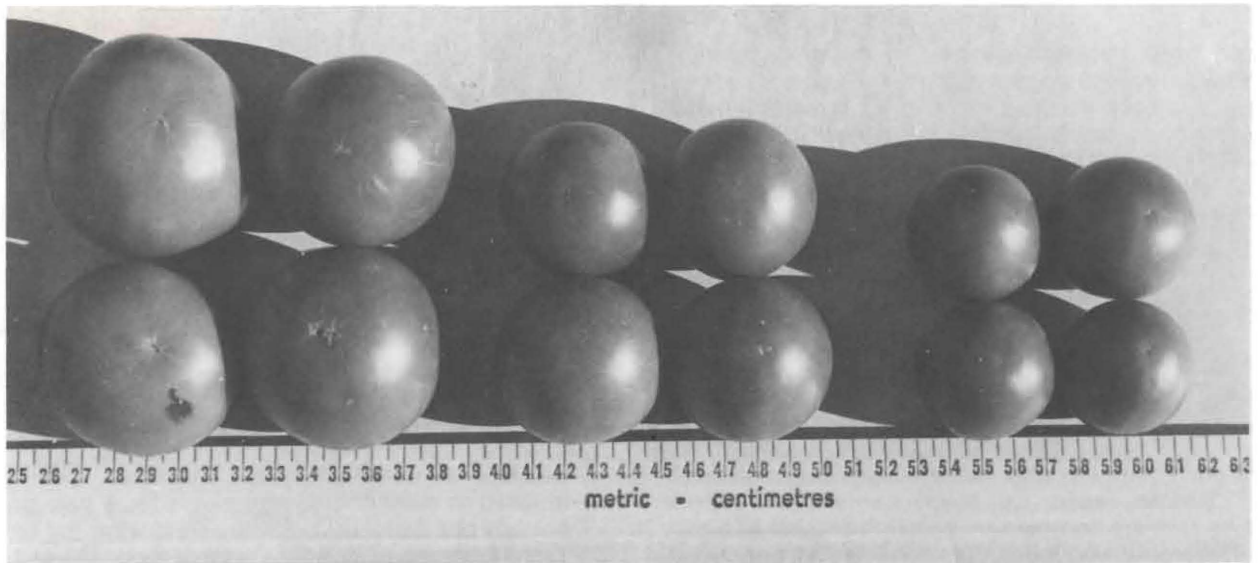
Fruit of 'Small Wonder'



Fruit of 'Northern Delight'

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Comparison of the fruit size of 'Nodak Early' (left), 'Northern Delight' (center) and 'Small Wonder' (right).

Comparison of the early yield and fruit size of 'Small Wonder', 'Northern Delight' and 'Nodak Early' with commercial varieties, 1987.

| Variety          | Yield (lbs.)     |         |         |         |       | Fruit Size (oz.) |
|------------------|------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|------------------|
|                  | Aug. 11          | Aug. 17 | Aug. 24 | Aug. 31 | Total |                  |
| Small Wonder     | 5.0 <sup>1</sup> | 4.9     | 7.3     | 5.6     | 22.8  | 1.1              |
| Northern Delight | 1.8              | 3.8     | 8.9     | 11.6    | 26.0  | 1.3              |
| Nodak Early      | 1.6              | 4.0     | 5.4     | 7.7     | 18.6  | 2.0              |
| Lark             | 0.3              | 1.7     | 4.3     | 7.6     | 13.8  | 3.1              |
| Quick Pick       | 0.3              | 1.2     | 2.5     | 3.4     | 7.4   | 3.1              |
| Sheyenne         | 0.1              | 1.4     | 3.2     | 5.4     | 10.1  | 4.7              |
| Wayahead         | 0.1              | 1.3     | 4.8     | 8.0     | 14.1  | 3.0              |

<sup>1</sup>Pounds per plot of 6 plants