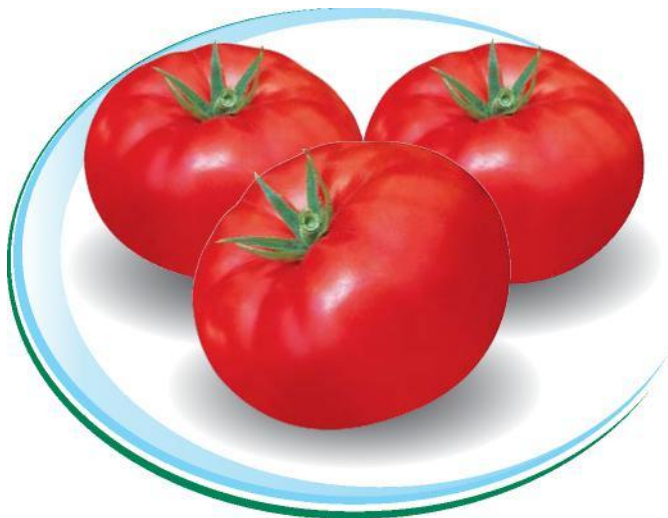




Paramount Seeds Inc.

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Bigdena & Growdena (Beefsteak Tomatoes)



Type: Dutch hybrid large beefsteak.

Resistances: *ToMV:0-2 / Ff:1-5 / V/ Fol:1,2 / For*

Production: Highly productive varieties. The Dena varieties are generally among the highest producing of the Dutch hybrids.

Fruit size: Fruit are large to extra large generally in the 8-10 ounce range.

Quality: Fruit quality is excellent with very little cracking or micro-cracking (russetting). Nice red color with slight shoulder ribs and very good taste.

Growing information: (Recommended for heated crops)

Planting density and spacing: Recommended plant density of approximately 10,000 plants/acre. Grow in V-system planting (2 plants per upright bag) or double rows planted in bags, slabs. Plants should be spaced at approximately 20 inches between heads in a row.

Vigor: Great summer growth from these strong, vigorous varieties. The vigor is judged by stem diameter. Optimum stem diameter below the flowering truss is 1/2 inch. Excess stem thickness can be controlled by growing with warmer night temperatures and /or removing leaves. The strong vigor of Bigdena and Growdena are advantageous in hot summer temperatures when extra strength is needed.

Fertilizer: EC levels of 2.8 -3.2 mmhos are recommended. From transplanting to approximately the 3rd truss flowering, nitrate levels in the feed can be kept to 50 % of mature plant target levels. The lower nitrate levels help control excess vegetative growth until the increasing fruit load balances the plant.



CO2: Highly productive varieties like the Denas respond favorably to CO2 enrichment above ambient levels (340-360 ppm). CO2 levels decreasing below ambient can cost production up to 20% with all other factors being equal. CO2 quality is very important. If gas burners are used for CO2 production, it is advisable to be sure they are working properly and not giving off carbon monoxide (CO).

Pollination: Use of bumblebees is recommended for optimum fruit set. In the absence of bees hand pollination is recommended.

Truss support: Supporting of the heavy fruit clusters is necessary. The truss supports keep the truss stem from kinking and allows optimum uniform growth and sizing of the developing fruit.

Fruit pruning: Fruit pruning and early use of truss supports is optimum for maximizing production. Fruit pruning the clusters to 4 fruit works well. In hot summer temperature situations, pruning the trusses to 3 fruit for 2-3 clusters will help keep strength in the plant.

Leaf removal: Leaf counts normally include the leaves just below the flowering truss to the harvesting truss. A leaf count of 14 -16 leaves is usually sufficient on the plants depending on leaf length and plant growth. A plant that is too vegetative (bullish) will need less leaves than a thinner, more open plant with shorter leaves. A week prior to starting harvest the grower may remove leaves to expose 2 trusses from the bottom to allow the sun to contact the fruit and, in doing so, will speed up the ripening process. During the summer a couple extra leaves will help keep the plant and fruit cool. To help reduce botrytis, removing the leaf close to the stem by cutting with a sharp knife is best, or snapping the leaves cleanly. Leaf removal in the morning is always a good practice as leaves are easier to cut or snap and the wounds have the better part of the day to dry.

Key Pests and Disorders of Greenhouse Tomatoes

- **Pests:** Aphids, spider mites, whiteflies, psyllids, cabbage loopers, etc.
- **Diseases:** Bacterial canker, *Pythium*, botrytis & powdery mildew.
- **Disorders:** Blossom end rot (nose rot), fruit cracking & russetting.

For Further Information

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