‘Bonner’ Tomato

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‘Bonner’ tomato is a compact, ultra early tomato (Lycopersicon esculentum Mill.) intended for use in cool and short growing season areas (Fig. 1). It was named for Bonner County, Idaho, where it was selected.

Origin

‘Bonner’ is a selection from a cross of ‘Sub-Arctic Early’ and ‘P109’, an unnamed selection from a cross between ‘Payette’ and ‘Uniset’. The breeding objective was to combine the ultra early character of ‘Sub-Arctic Early’ with the large fruit and vine type of ‘P109’. ‘Bonner’ was tested as Idaho 812.

Description

‘Bonner’ is an ultra early, compact, semi-determinate cultivar with good foliage and concentrated fruit set. The plant averages 30 cm tall with a spread of 60 cm. The fruit are 4-6 cm in diam. Each plant yields many fruits which ripen over a 20-30 day period. Fruit yield and quality are comparable with other early cultivars and are suitable for salad use or home processing (Table 1). The fruit are bright red and free from cracking.

Outstanding characteristics and uses

‘Bonner’ was developed as an ultra-early cultivar for use in areas with short or cool growing seasons. It begins to ripen in 40-50 days after transplanting in warm summer areas. The fruit were 90% ripe on August 19, 1976 (70 days after planting) with an accumulation of 564 degree days, base 10°C (1015 degree days, base 59°F) at Moscow, Idaho, a cool summer area. This cultivar should be tested for home garden use in cool areas of the world.

Availability

Trial samples of seed are available to interested experiment stations and commercial seed growers upon request from the authors.

Table 1. Average yield and fruit wt of ‘Bonner’ compared with other ultra-early tomato cultivars, 1977.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultivar</th>
<th>August 16</th>
<th>September 1</th>
<th>September 13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yield (g/plant)</td>
<td>Fruit wt (g)</td>
<td>Yield (g/plant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonner</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Arctic Early</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Arctic Delight</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Arctic Midi</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocket</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>613</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Other tomato articles

Latah’ and ‘Shoshone’ Tomatoes

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Additional index words. Lycopersicon esculentum, vegetable breeding

‘Latah’ and ‘Shoshone’ tomatoes (Lycopersicon esculentum Mill.), are 2 new cultivars of the “Sub-Arctic Type” (1). Both are “ultra-early” cultivars which ripen with the “Sub Arctics” and will produce ripe fruit in areas where standard “early” cultivars do not mature. “Ultra-early” cultivars are a new class of tomatoes which extend the range where tomatoes may be grown into short and cool growing season areas. Under warm conditions they are useful as a very early crop ripening 14-21 days before the standard “early” cultivars. ‘Latah’ is named for Latah County, Idaho, where it was selected. ‘Shoshone’ is named for an Indian tribe of Idaho.

Origin

‘Latah’ was derived from a cross between P109, an unnamed selection from a cross between ‘Payette’ and ‘Uniset’, and ‘Early Sub-Arctic’ (1). ‘Shoshone’ was selected from a cross between ‘Pixie Hybrid’ and ‘Early Sub-Arctic’. The parents are Pixie Hybrid and Early Sub-Arctic. The seed was released in 1978. ‘Latah’ and ‘Shoshone’ were tested as Idaho 803 and 804, respectively.