

Lesson 1

READ THIS STORY #2, Advanced

Tomatoes

There are hundreds of types of tomatoes. They range from marble-sized cherry tomatoes to huge plate-sized tomatoes. If you're a vegetarian, you probably consume a lot of them. You may even have a tomato bush in your back yard. Tomatoes thrive with only a little work on the part of the gardener.

The plant was brought from Mexico to Spain in the 1500's. Tomatoes were shunned as a dangerous plant. In some places, they were called "love apples." That's because tomatoes were thought to excite the senses and stir the passions.

Tomatoes were not widely accepted until 1800. It's hard to imagine Italian spaghetti without tomatoes. Can you imagine French fries without ketchup, or salads without tomatoes?

Today we know tomatoes are rich in vitamins A and C. We think they may contain a substance that combats some forms of cancer. Who knows what they'll be used for tomorrow?