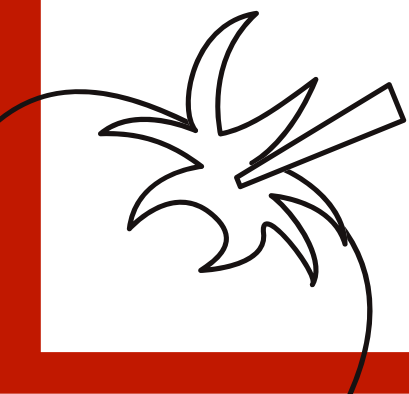


A Little Tomato History



- 500 BC** The first traces of the tomato are found with the Aztecs
- 1493** Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes brings tomato seeds from the Aztecs to Europe
- MID 1500S** Tomatoes are considered poisonous due to the acid mixing with lead in pewter plates and flateware, causing death
- MID 1500S** The tomato makes its first appearance in a Nepalese cookbook
- 1694** Joseph Pitto de Tournefort gives the botanical name *Lycopersicum* to the tomato, meaning "Wolf Peach"
- 1812** The first recipe for tomato-based ketchup is developed by a scientist in Philadelphia
- 1820** Tomatoes are put "on trial" in Salem, New Jersey to prove that they are not poisonous
- 1893** Though botanically a fruit, the tomato is declared a vegetable by the U.S. Supreme Court following the 1887 tariff on vegetables
- 1918** George Washington Carver publishes 'How to Grow the Tomato and 115 Ways to Prepare it for the Table'
- 1920** Carl R. Hirzel purchases the Hirzel Farm near Toledo, OH
- 1920'S** "Hot Tomato" becomes slang for a term of endearment
- 1923** Hirzel Farms begins growing cabbage and selling sauerkraut
- 1924** Hirzel Farms begins growing tomatoes
- 1937** The pronunciation of "tomato" sparks debate after the song "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off" premieres in the film "Shall We Dance"
- 1947** Hirzel Canning Company is incorporated

- 1954** The Pemberville, OH plant is purchased
- 1957** La Tomatina becomes an official "Tomato Throwing" annual festival in Spain
- 1965** Tomato Juice becomes the official beverage of Ohio
- 1969** The Bulk Unloading System is first successfully utilized
- 1983** The Ottawa, OH plant is purchased
- 1987** The tomato becomes the official state vegetable AND fruit of Arkansas
- 2003** The tomato becomes the official state fruit of Tennessee
- 2008** Dei Fratelli hosts it's first "Ripened Recipe Contest"
- 2009** Dei Fratelli joins Twitter
- 2009** The tomato becomes the official state fruit of Ohio
- 2010** Dei Fratelli joins Facebook
- 2010** State-of-the-art Aseptic Processing Facility is built
- 2011** Dei Fratelli joins YouTube
- 2014** Dei Fratelli joins Instagram
- 2014** New Guinness World Record for the heaviest tomato weighs in at 8.61 lbs.



Dei Fratelli[®]

