

# PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS & HARVEST / POST HARVEST GUIDE



## Tomato, Red Slicing

### Product Specifications

<b>Appearance</b>	Quality smooth, shiny and firm with no soft spots, cracking, leaking, decay
	<b>Color &amp; Shape</b>
	Ripeness “turning” or “pink” stage, uniform ripeness in case (see ripeness chart)
<b>Size</b>	<b>Weight</b>
	Measure 2.5” – 3” diameter
<b>Packing</b>	Case lidded, 25 lb carton or 10 lb tomato flat
	Weight 25 lb product weight, packed in layers stem side down 10 lb flat, single layer stem side down
<b>Varieties</b> Dena, Big Beef	

### Harvest

- Harvest daily or every other day, at the “turning” or “pink” stage.
- Consider harvesting with clean cotton gloves (helps to gently clean fruit surface).
- Twist the tomato gently to detach from stem.
- Handle carefully as fruit bruises easily.
- Avoid harvesting when wet, and do not pack wet fruit into case.

### Post-Harvest Handling

<b>Pre-cooling</b>	Room cooling
<b>Washing/ Processing</b>	Wipe clean if needed to remove dirt, gently remove any remaining stems.
<b>Storage</b>	Temp 66–70°F (< 55°F results in chilling injury)
	Humidity 90–95%
<b>Ethylene Sensitivity</b>	Ethylene sensitive, exposure will further ripening

# Tomato, Red Slicing (continued)

## Photo Reference



## What to Avoid (Cat-facing / Sunscald / Cracking):



## Ripeness Guide

**COLOR CLASSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN TOMATOES**  
 UNITED STATES STANDARDS FOR GRADES OF FRESH

United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association  
 in cooperation with  
 U. S. Department of Agriculture  
 Agricultural Marketing Service  
 Fruit and Vegetable Division  
 U.S.D.A. Visual Aid TM-11, February 75  
 The John Henry Company  
 P.O. Box 1410, Lansing, Mich. 48904

GREEN	BREAKERS	TURNING	PINK	LIGHT RED	RED

(1) "Green" means that the surface of the tomato is completely green in color. The shades of green color may vary from light to dark.

(2) "Breakers" means that there is a definite break in color from green to tannish-yellow, pink or red on not more than 10 percent of the surface.

(3) "Turning" means that more than 10 percent but not more than 30 percent of the surface, in the aggregate, shows a definite change in color from green to tannish-yellow, pink, red, or a combination thereof.

(4) "Pink" means that more than 30 percent but not more than 60 percent of the surface, in the aggregate, shows pink or red color.

(5) "Light red" means that more than 60 percent of the surface, in the aggregate, shows pinkish-red or red. Provided, That not more than 90 percent of the surface is red color; and.

(6) "Red" means that more than 90 percent of the surface, in the aggregate, shows red color.

The above photographs are only guides illustrating the shade and percentage of surface color specified for each of the color terms. These photographs do not necessarily depict absolute limits of minimum or maximum shades and/or percentage of color required for each term.