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'Ida Gold'

A New Ultra Early Tomato Cultivar

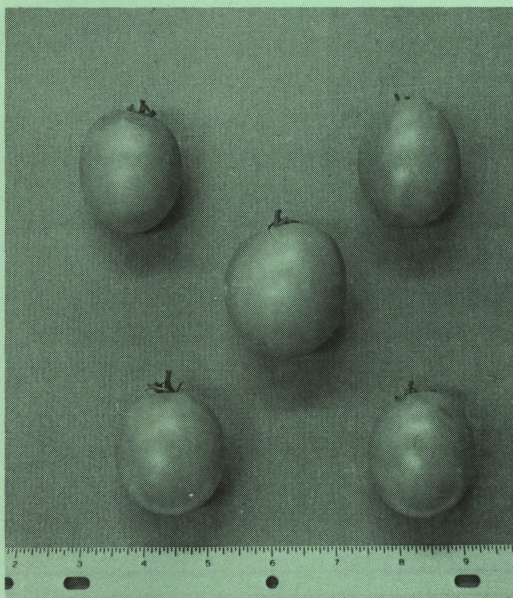
Arthur A. Boe and Margaret I. Luckman

A program to develop ultra early tomato cultivars has been in progress at the University of Idaho for more than 10 years. Eight tomato cultivars have been released from this program previously. This publication marks the release of 'Ida Gold,' a new ultra early yellow tomato, for use in cool summer areas.

'Ida Gold' is a selection from a cross between 'Sub Arctic Midi' and 'Golden Delight.' 'Ida Gold' has the ultra early characteristic of 'Sub Arctic Midi' and the color of 'Golden Delight.'

'Ida Gold' is an ultra early semideterminate cultivar with concentrated fruit set. The plants are small, 25 cm tall × 60 cm (10 to 24 inches) spread, and have good leaf coverage. They are somewhat viny and retain good leaf color during bearing. Each plant sets many fruits. Fruit set and ripen under adverse temperature conditions.

The fruit are 4 to 6 cm (1 to 2 inches) in diameter and smooth. When ripe, they are a rich, gold color. Very little fruit cracking occurs



even in cool wet weather. The fruit is of excellent quality for both fresh and salad use.

Seed is available to commercial seed companies from the North Idaho Foundation Seed Association, 715 South Hayes St., Moscow, Idaho 83843. Small samples will be supplied to experiment stations for trial programs upon request. Home gardeners should be able to purchase the seed in local garden stores or should ask their University of Idaho Extension county agent for a seed source.

For more information on growing tomatoes in cool summer areas, see University of Idaho CIS 431, *Growing Tomatoes in Cool Summer Areas*.

The Authors

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