



Genetically Engineered “Purple Tomato” Seeds & Fruit Approved in Canada

A genetically engineered (genetically modified or GM) tomato, trademarked *The Purple Tomato*™, has been approved in Canada. The **seeds** are now for sale online for home gardeners and the **tomatoes** could be sold in grocery stores at any time.

This is a GM tomato with **deep purple skin and flesh**.

The “Purple Tomato” (Del/Ros1-N) was genetically engineered with **two genes from snapdragon flowers to increase the plant’s anthocyanin production**, which also makes the tomato purple. Anthocyanins are a type of flavonoid that has antioxidant properties. They also give fruits and vegetables like blueberries, eggplants and some **traditionally bred purple tomatoes** their vibrant colours.

This is the first GM tomato approved for growing in Canada and, if sold in grocery stores, it would be the first GM tomato in Canadian produce sections since Monsanto removed the Flavr Savr™ tomato from the market in 1997.

The sale of GM garden seeds constitutes a direct attack on organic food and farming, and a threat to Canada’s seed supply. If genetically modified garden seeds are sold, there is a high likelihood they will contaminate seed stocks and end up, unwanted, in gardens and on farms across Canada.

Companies are actively testing the consumer market to launch genetically engineered fruits and vegetables.

The only GM fresh foods sold in Canada are GM sweet corn, papaya & pineapple. See cban.ca/gmfoods

In Canada, this GM tomato could be sold as seeds and seedlings, and as whole packaged tomatoes.

Note: There are already several non-GM, traditionally bred purple tomatoes grown and sold in Canada.

GM Tomato Seeds & Seedlings

The small US biotechnology company **Norfolk Healthy Produce (NHP)** is selling seeds under the commercial name ***The Purple Tomato*™**.

In Canada, in January 2026, the seeds are being sold directly from NHP’s website in small packets marketed to home gardeners.

The seeds could also soon be sold through **garden centres** and other stores, and from some seed companies.

Check cban.ca/SeedsAction

GM Tomatoes

Whole GM tomatoes could be in produce sections, likely in plastic packages.

In the US, they are sold under the name ***Empress Limited Edition Tomato***.

They will likely be distributed by **Red Sun Farms**, headquartered in Ontario.

They could be sold as a product of Canada or the US.

More information, updates and action: cban.ca/tomatoes • Contact us: info@cban.ca



The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) brings together 14 groups across Canada to research, monitor and raise awareness about issues relating to genetic engineering in food and farming. CBAN is a project on the shared platform of MakeWay Charitable Society.