

## San Diego – La Mesa – Optimists

Happy Gardening!



Elaeagnus, Ebbings silverberry [Elaeagnus x ebbingei]

Round shrub with opposite, elliptic leaves that are dark green with somewhat random cream variegation. Leaves have a waxy cuticle that flakes off like dandruff. Very hardy, virtually a bullet-proof plant.



Jet Star Tomato (*Lycopersicon lycopersicum*)

VF-72 days. Tasty, mild-flavored fruit matures early with tremendous yields. Large, attractive globes have few scars or cracks. *Indeterminate* vines produce heavily.



Brandywine Tomato [*Lycopersicon lycopersicum*]

*Amish variety heralded for best taste since 1885!*

90 days. Incredible flavor, perfectly balanced between acids and sugars. Medium-large fruits, up to 1 1/2 lb., protected from sunscald by potato-like leaves. Indeterminate

Very often clients ask about "Heirloom" tomatoes. Heirlooms are simply much older varieties than the new hybrids. Though their taste is excellent, you can find this same great taste in newer hybrids. Newer varieties however, have been developed to be more bountiful and hardier – less subject to disease. It's your choice!

One of the most common questions about tomato plants is what the difference is between determinate and indeterminate varieties. Once you know the difference, it's easy to make informed decisions about which tomatoes will work best in your garden.

Answer: The most simple explanation of the difference between determinate and indeterminate tomatoes is that determinate tomatoes bear their crop all at once, while indeterminate tomatoes bear fruit over the course of a season. Indeterminate varieties tend to grow longer vines and will require more support in terms of staking or caging over the course of a season.

Determinate varieties often (but not always) tend to be more compact and manageable.



The Moruga Scorpion Pepper [ ] is one of the hottest peppers in the world. We believe hotter than Ghost chile. The Morouga Scorpion is named after the South East region of Trinidad. It gets a small tail or nipple and has a slight Scotch Bonnet shape. Closely related to the Trinidad 7 Pot it's skin has a rough surface that looks like the texture of a human brain. Unlike the 7 pot the pods are consistent in shape and size. It may have a higher heat level than the traditional Red Trinidad Scorpion.

Dave DeWitt is called "Pope of Peppers" and is the author of many chile pepper books. Dave gave the pepper to his long time friend Marlin Bensinger, a chemical engineer and one of the foremost experts on capsaicin science. Marlin tested it and it came in higher than the Bhut Jolokia.



An Anaheim pepper [*Capsicum annuum* 'Numex Big Jim'] is a mild variety of chili pepper. The name "Anaheim" derives from a farmer named Emilio Ortega who brought the seeds to the Anaheim, California, area in the early 1900s.

Anaheim peppers are available in grocery stores in the produce section. As these peppers mature they turn from green to red. They can be used for cooking at any stage but are most often used when still green



*Ceanothus griseus horizontalis* 'Diamond Heights'

This is a beautiful spreading shrub that grows to 1 foot tall by 6 feet wide with 1 inch long rounded leaves that are a yellow lime-green color with splashes of dark green. The yellow tones are brightest in warmer weather and full sun while the green is more dominant in winter or in heavily shaded plantings. Although most notable for its leaf coloration, as a bonus this plant has clusters of pale blue flowers in spring that display well against the vividly colored foliage.

You could think of it as a variegated version of a well known groundcover ceanothus like 'Yankee Point.'

Both of the above could be considered low-water (not no-water) plants for a garden.

California native plant purists might want to think twice before planting any of this selections. It can burn if in too hot a location.



*Ceanothus griseus* "Kurt Zadnik" also known as "The California lilac"

Grows about 3 ft. tall and 10 - 15 ft. wide. The flower buds are very dark with beautiful rich indigo blue flowers. This fine selection is a prolific bloomer. Shrubby ceanothus provide seeds eaten by bushtits, mockingbirds, quail and finches, as well as cover for birds.