

A TOMATO THAT PAID THE BILLS!

Mortgage Lifter Tomato

Solanum lycopersicum
Solanaceae



During the 1930s, “Radiator Charlie,” a mechanic in West Virginia, bred these tomatoes by crossing four popular varieties, resulting in a giant tomato perfect for slicing and preserving. He named his new cultivar “Mortgage Lifter” because after six years selling plants for \$1 each, he was able to pay off his \$6,000 mortgage, an especially impressive feat during the Great Depression.