

TEXAS HIGHWAYS--TOMATOES WWH--MALLORY

TIME FOR TOMATOES

June is peak time for Texas tomatoes. To find farmers markets or pick-your-own farms selling fresh tomatoes, contact the Texas Department of Agriculture, Box 12847, Austin 78711 (800/835-5832). Website: www.agr.state.tx.us/events.

Find greenhouse-grown tomatoes year-round at Cooper Farms, located one mile north of Fairfield on US 75 (903/389-2696; email--tkcooper@airmail.net). They also sell them with other seasonal produce at roadside stands along IH-45 from Ennis to Conroe. The Coopers offer greenhouse tours with two weeks advance notice. Tomato mega-greenhouses in West Texas--Village Farms of Texas at Fort Davis (915/426-2301) and Village Farms of Marfa (915/729-3071)--offer educational group tours by prior arrangement.

Celebrate Texas' tomato heritage at two festivals--Yoakum's Tom Tom Festival (June 2-4; call 361/293-2309) and Jacksonville's Tomato Fest (June 9-10; call 800/376-2217). Jacksonville's festival offers tours of David Claiborne's tomato packing shed, located at 461 Alabama St. (903/589-0094). You can also buy tomatoes and other produce at the shed Mon-Sat 8-5 from May 20 to Sept. 30. •

For information on *Texas Gardening* magazine's Great Texas Tomato Contest, contact editor Chris Corby, 10566 N. River Crossing, Waco 76712 (254/848-9393). The entry deadline is Aug. 1.

For tomato history and lore, try culinary historian Andrew F. Smith's books: [The Tomato in America: Early History, Culture and Cookery](#), [Pure Ketchup: The History of America's National Condiment](#), and [Souper Tomatoes: The Story of America's Favorite Food](#) .