

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick

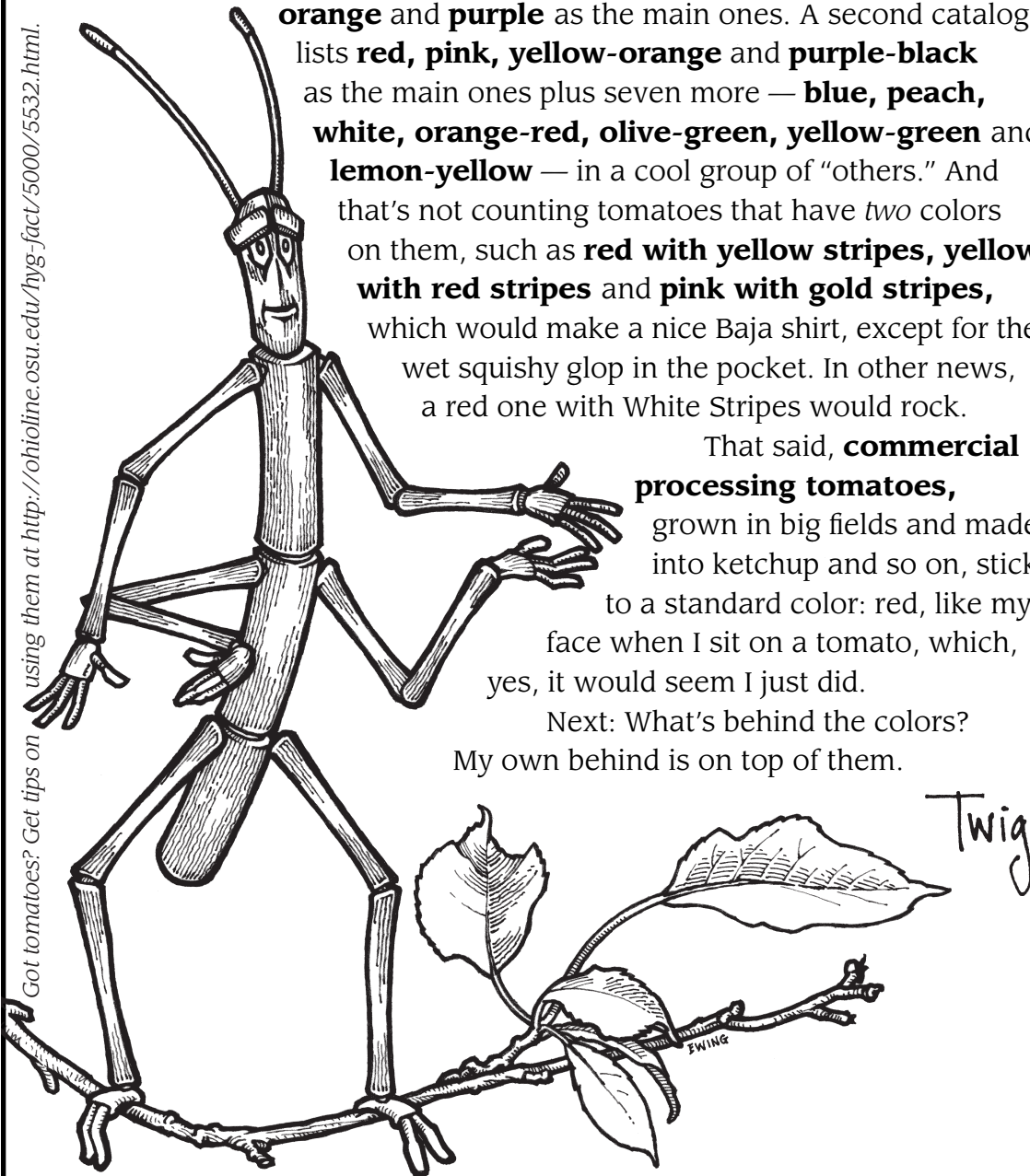
Q. Dear Twig: How many colors of tomatoes are there?

A. The easy answer is, more than one. Tomatoes come in colors besides red. One seed catalog lists **red, pink, green, brown, black, orange and purple** as the main ones. A second catalog lists **red, pink, yellow-orange and purple-black** as the main ones plus seven more — **blue, peach, white, orange-red, olive-green, yellow-green and lemon-yellow** — in a cool group of “others.” And that’s not counting tomatoes that have *two* colors on them, such as **red with yellow stripes, yellow with red stripes and pink with gold stripes**, which would make a nice Baja shirt, except for the wet squishy glop in the pocket. In other news, a red one with White Stripes would rock.

That said, **commercial processing tomatoes**, grown in big fields and made into ketchup and so on, stick to a standard color: red, like my face when I sit on a tomato, which, yes, it would seem I just did.

Next: What’s behind the colors?
My own behind is on top of them.

Got tomatoes? Get tips on using them at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/5000/5532.html>.



From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (www.oardc.ohio-state.edu) and OSU Extension (extension.osu.edu).



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Notes: The link is to an Ohio State University Extension fact sheet called “Selecting, Storing and Serving Ohio Tomatoes,” which if you want to you can print it and share it with one of your parents, or you can print it and sneak it onto their desk or the kitchen counter if you don’t want to look like you’re volunteering to to help or something, though if you did they’d probably appreciate it, unless you happen to “serve” a tomato at your little brother’s head. Also try <http://ohioline.osu.edu/5-a-day/tomato.html>.

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