

A look at three Tomato Varieties in a Home Garden and Fruit Production

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Introduction

- Tomatoes are a staple in the home garden
- Tomatoes are utilized in various ways, be it from, garden to table, canning (from salsas to sauces) , and freezing for future use.
- With varieties that are Determinate and Indeterminate the fruit may come off the plant all at once or have continuous fruit through the season.
- Varieties also range in tomato size from grape size to softball size. So homeowners need to consider what will they be using it for.

Objective

To look at three varieties of tomato that exhibit traits of differing tomato size and terminations of fruit to show what each variety may produce within a growth period for the homeowners needs.

Results and Discussion

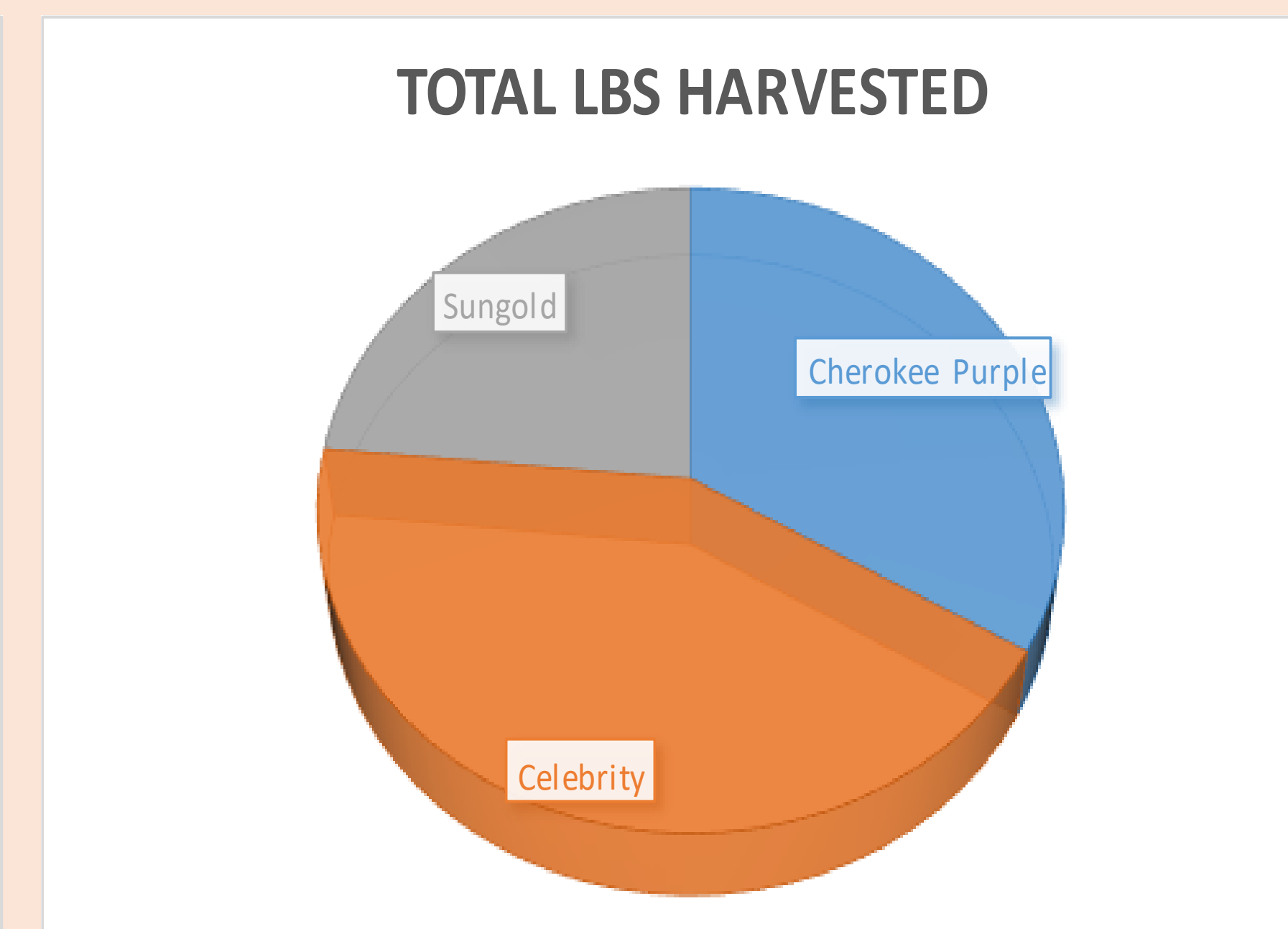
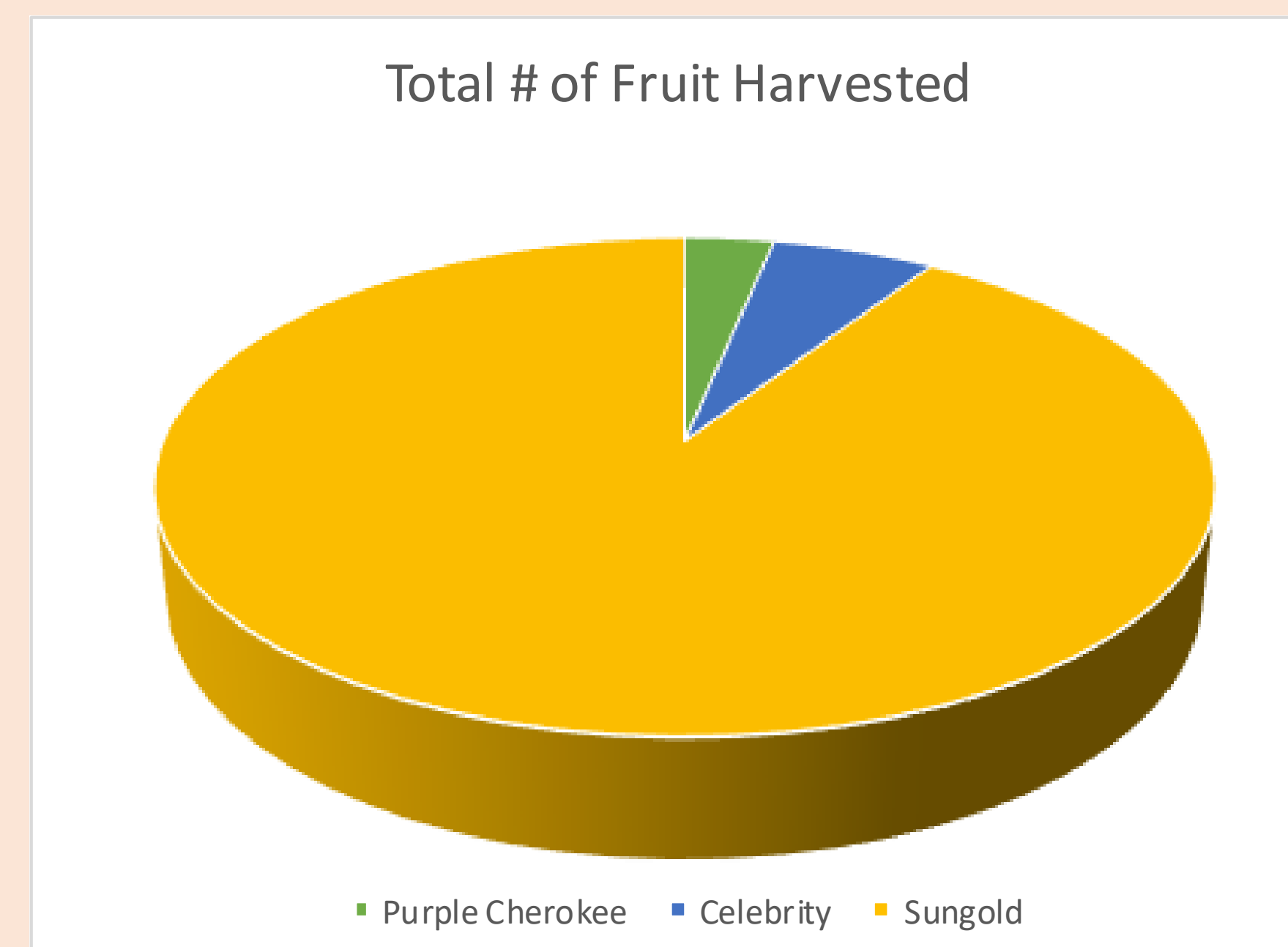
- Sungold being grape sized and an Indeterminate proved to be extremely fruitful the entire growing season. They produced 2881 fruit for the season and weighed in at 34.64 lbs. total
- Celebrity being tennis ball sized and a semi-determinate showed moderate fruiting. They produced 188 fruit and weighed 63.33 lbs. total
- Cherokee Purple being softball to baseball sized and an indeterminate showed the least fruitful and not aesthetically pleasing to the homeowner with unregular coloring and cracking. They produced 103 fruit for the season and weighed 49.5 lbs. total

Materials and Methods

- 6 Plants of 3 varieties were obtained and planted in our homeowners garden. The varieties looked at were Sungold, Cherokee Purple, and Celebrity
- The Tomatoes were planted April 3, 2019
- Fungicides used during the season were applied with a 1 gallon hand sprayer. Fungicides used were a liquid Copper at a 2oz rate and Daconil at a 1tbsp rate.
- First Fungicide application was made May 1st with Copper, Fungicides were then altered weekly.
- Insecticides used were liquid Sevin and Malathion at label rates. They were applied with a 1 gallon hand sprayer.
- First Insecticide was applied May 5th, 2019 and Insecticides were then alternated weekly as needed.

Dates	# of Purple	Weight Cherokee Purple	# of Celebrity Picked	Weight Celebrity	# of Sungold Picked	Weight Sungold
6/24/2019					100	2.6
7/1/2019					230	4.9
7/3/2019	1	0.147	1	0.34	288	5.01
7/6/2019	6	4.2	6	2.1		
7/9/2019	3		6		210	
7/10/2019	23	12.89	31	12.64	775	8.8
7/13/2019			6	3.25		
7/15/2019	69	32.15				
7/16/2019					400	6
7/18/2019	1	0.089	45	17.81	453	4.11
7/21/2019			14	4.25		
7/25/2019			8	6		
7/26/2019			7	1.1		
7/28/2019			31	9.5		
7/30/2019			16	3.51		
8/2/2019			6	1.7	129	1.1
8/20/2019			11	1.13	296	2.12
Totals	103		188		2881	
total lbs harvested		49.476		63.33		34.64

Chart used to tract production and weights for the season



Impacts and Conclusion

- Fungicides and Insecticides were inexpensive in cost overall for the 4 purchased (2 insecticide and 2 fungicide)
- With alternating Insecticides no insect pressure was seen in any of the plants
- With Fungicides being alternated no diseases were noted that inhibited production.
- If being used for canning salsa's and sauces the celebrity proved the best of the three varieties and its semi-determinate breed came off at a steady pace so the homeowner would not be overloaded with mass production at once.
- Sungold proved plentiful in production and with a sweet taste were a favorite of the homeowner and those who sampled it.