

- Classifieds
 - [Browse ads](#)
 - [Place my ad](#)
 - [CareerOne](#)
 - [Carsguide](#)
 - [Realestate.com.au](#)
 - [TrueLocal](#)
- Lifestyle
 - [Vogue](#)
 - [Taste](#)
 - [Kidspot](#)
 - [body+soul](#)
 - [homelife](#)
- Marketplace
 - [Moshtix](#)
 - [Foxtix](#)
 - [Getprice](#)
 - [Shopferret](#)
 - [OurDeal](#)
 - [WeGo Travel](#)
 - [Learning Seat](#)
- ◦ [Breaking News](#)
- [Sydney/NSW](#)
- [National](#)
- [World](#)
- [Weird](#)
- [Classmate](#)
- [Tributes](#)
- [Galleries](#)
- [Photo Sales](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Jobs](#)

Last Updated: **June 05, 2012**

Search for:

Weather: [Sydney 9°C - 17°C](#). Rain. Becoming very windy.

[Breaking News](#)

Scientists sequence tomato's genome

- by: *By AFP*
- From: *NewsCore*
- May 31, 2012 6:05AM
- [Increase Text Size](#)
- [Decrease Text Size](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Share](#)
 - [Add to Digg](#)
 - [Add to del.icio.us](#)
 - [Add to Facebook](#)
 - [Add to Kwoff](#)
 - [Add to Myspace](#)
 - [Add to Newsvine](#)

- [What are these?](#)

AN international scientific team overnight said it had unraveled the genetic code of the tomato, opening up ways to improve the fruit's taste, nutrition and shelf-life.

Gathering more than 300 researchers in 14 countries, the Tomato Genome Consortium compared today's domesticated tomato with its wild South American parent, *Solanum pimpinellifolium*.

The tomato has 35,000 genes, but there is only a variation of 0.6 per cent between the wild variety and the supermarket variety of today, according to the study, appearing in the journal *Nature*.

The tomato is a member of the Solanaceae family, which includes other highly valuable crops such as the potato, pepper and eggplant, as well as spices and herbs that have a medicinal use.

A comparison showed that the tomato is just eight per cent different, genetically, from the potato.

Agricultural researchers have been steadily sequencing important crops to pinpoint genes that affect taste, resilience to disease or ability to grow in different soils and climates.

Start of sidebar. [Skip to end of sidebar.](#)

Related Coverage

- [Gene sequence in diagnosis breakthrough](#) *The Daily Telegraph*, 7 Dec 2011
- [Secrets of long life sought in DNA](#) *The Daily Telegraph*, 27 Oct 2011
- [Roo genes give Tasmanian devils hope](#) *The Australian*, 22 Aug 2011
- [Scientists make kangaroo genome breakthrough](#) *The Daily Telegraph*, 20 Aug 2011
- [Gene selection plan to save Tassie devils](#) *The Australian*, 28 Jun 2011

End of sidebar. [Return to start of sidebar.](#)

This fast-tracks ways of including useful genes in new strains, either through genetic engineering - opposed in some countries - or through traditional cross-breeding.

Previous crops that have been sequenced include corn, wheat, rice, soybean, apple and strawberry.

"The tomato is one of the most common and exploited crop plants," said Francisco Camara of Spain's Center for Genomic Regulation.

"Getting to know its genome in details allows us on one hand to have a better understanding of the evolution of higher plants thanks to controlled populations such as cultivated ones, and it also provides new tools for future agriculture."

Members of the nine-year-old tomato consortium hail from Argentina, Belgium, Britain, China, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States.

Sales of tomatoes in the United States alone are roughly \$US2 billion a year.

- [Increase Text Size](#)
- [Decrease Text Size](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Share](#)
 - [Add to Digg](#)
 - [Add to del.icio.us](#)
 - [Add to Facebook](#)
 - [Add to Kwoff](#)
 - [Add to Myspace](#)
 - [Add to Newsvine](#)
 - [What are these?](#)