

CHRONOLOGY

5000 BCE	A semidomesticated ancestor of the tomato is carried from South America to Mesoamerica, where it is fully domesticated
ca. 1650–1550 BCE	Increase in Nubian pottery at the Egyptian fortress of Askut indicates interaction of culinary traditions across shifting frontiers between Egypt and Nubia
1200 BCE	Black pepper used in the mummification of Ramses II
332–30 BCE	Ptolemaic period in Egypt; durum wheat and other Greek agricultural innovations introduced
7th–8th centuries CE	Following the death of the Prophet Muhammad (632), Islamic conquests incorporate territory from Southwest Asia to the western Mediterranean, including Egypt (from 639) and Iberia (from 711)
969–1171 CE	Fatimid dynasty rules Egypt, likely facilitating the incorporation of foods from elsewhere in North Africa into Egyptian cuisine
11th–15th centuries CE	Foodstuffs of Asian origin—including ginger, turmeric, cardamom, and Sichuan pepper—appear in significant quantities in Egyptian port of Qusayr, indicating increase in Indian Ocean trade
1415	Roman Catholic rulers of Portugal begin series of incursions in Africa with attack on Moroccan port of Ceuta
1492	Granada, the last Muslim-ruled stronghold in Spain, falls to Roman Catholic monarchs; Spanish Jews ordered to convert to Christianity or be expelled; departure of first Spanish voyage to reach the Americas
1497	Portuguese Jews forcibly converted to Christianity; coffee attested in Sinai

1498	Portuguese reach Calicut in India
1499–1526	Spanish Muslims expelled or forcibly converted to Christianity
1513	Portuguese besiege Aden
1517	Ottomans secure territory in Egypt and Yemen, establishing the Red Sea as a bulwark against Portuguese incursions in the Indian Ocean
1519–1521	Spanish conquest of Mexico; earliest possible departure of tomatoes from the Americas; Spanish reach the Philippines (1521)
1557	Portuguese establish colony of Macao
1565–1815	Manila Galleons regularly cross Pacific, connecting Spanish-held territories in Mexico and the Philippines
1608	Tomatoes make a fleeting appearance in the records of a hospital in Seville
1609–1614	Moriscos (Muslim converts to Christianity) and their descendants expelled from Spain
1658	Portuguese in Java described as using the term <i>tomatas</i>
1671	Tomatoes recorded as present in Moroccan gardens and diets
1692	First European recipes with tomatoes printed in Naples
1738	Reports of tomatoes in Algeria and Tunisia
1755	Attestation of Malay usage of the word <i>tomatte</i>
1798–1801	Napoleon invades Egypt, where French botanists document the tomato's presence