

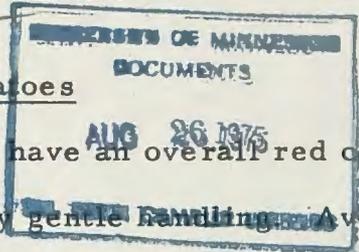
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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE - UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA •

August 22, 1975

Buying and Storing Tomatoes

(0:45)



(612) 373-0710

consumer radio briefs

Fully ripe tomatoes have an overall red color and a slight softness, which may be detected by gentle handling. Avoid overripe and bruised tomatoes, which may be soft and watery. Soft, water-soaked spots, depressed areas or surface mold indicate decay. Avoid buying tomatoes with green or yellow sunburned areas near the stem, or those with growth cracks.

Tomatoes which are pink to light red should be purchased several days before eating. To ripen at home, keep tomatoes at room temperature for three or four days. For quicker ripening, leave them in a paper bag or cover with a towel to trap the natural ethylene gas. Don't place in direct sunlight. Refrigerate ripe tomatoes and for maximum flavor, bring tomatoes to room temperature before serving.

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Coffee Prices

(0:60)

The leading American coffee roaster raised wholesale prices 20 cents per pound (and 3 cents per ounce for instant) in response to the frost in Brazil, which damaged the coffee crop there. Brazil's coffee crop for next year is now expected to total a little more than one-third of the supply this year. Brazilian export prices are up from 50 cents to 80 cents per pound, and will rise by two cents in September and again in October. Damage to the coffee bushes may also cut the 1976/77 crop in Brazil, which supplies about 30 percent of the world's coffee. Civil war has cut off supplies from Angola, another important coffee grower. Processors were paying between 79 cents and \$1.01 per pound for imported coffees from other countries during the first week in August, up sharply from last month. The New York Times reports that another 30 cents per pound is needed for shipping, processing and packaging these green coffee beans. Future coffee prices remain a matter of speculation, but are expected to be higher for some time to come.

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