

Mimicking gene changes in mutant cherry tomatoes can nearly double production

Plant geneticists have figured out how to almost double the production of garden tomatoes. Though most of us care mainly about how big or [tasty](#) our corn or tomatoes are, breeders also care about how these plants grow, as the branching patterns of stems can greatly affect the number of fruits produced or how easily they are harvested.

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By examining mutant tomato plants, these researchers have now learned which genes are involved in making too many branches. These and related genes are also involved in making flowers and [in fruit ripening](#). By altering these genes, the scientists discovered that they could breed a tomato that branched just enough in the right places [to double the production of cherry tomatoes](#), they report today in *Cell*. This work is another step in understanding [tomato genetics](#).

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Twice the tomatoes on the vine, thanks to a bit of genetic tweaking](#)