

Now make French fries and Ketch-up from the same plant!

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This real hybrid plant variety called as 'TomTato', has been developed by Thompson & Morgan, a UK-based seed and plant company.

TomTato is a grafted plant, giving out tomatoes on top and potatoes underneath the ground. This hybrid is simply produced by grafting a tomato and potato plant together, which is already common amongst many crops, such as roses and fruit trees.

Talking about the research behind creating this Frankensteinian hybrid plant, Mr Michael Perry, new product manager, Thompson & Morgan, told BioSpectrum, "We investigated professional grafting companies for a few years before finding a company we trusted in carrying out the technical grafting process. Once we had this, we trialed a range of varieties to make sure we had 2 compatible varieties."

The TomTato hybrid has been a success as both, potato and tomato, are close relatives, descending from the same plant family and having same number of chromosomes.

TomTato is said to be easily cultivable either in containers or in the open ground just as any other tomato plant. They can be grown in any climate that potatoes and tomatoes are usually grown in. Mr Perry said that these hybrid crops are identical to the usual tomatoes and potatoes, and that the crops have been certified to be safe for human consumption.

TomTato plant takes 4 months to produce tomatoes and about 5 months for potatoes from the time of planting. Mr Perry assured that there were no genetic modifications carried out in the creation of TomTato.

Currently, TomTato is available by mail order only in the UK, priced at £14.99 each.

