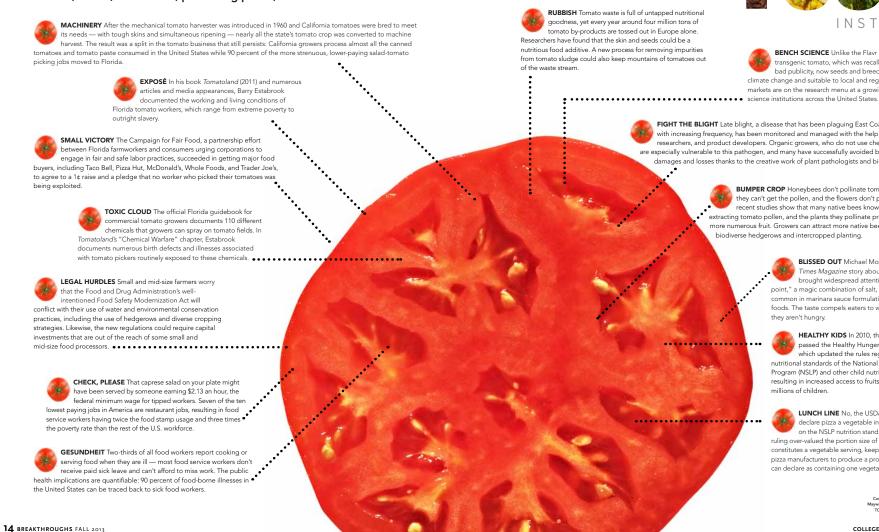
ANATOMY OF A TOMATO

Where does your food come from? We follow a single item from farms to schools, stores, restaurants, processing plants, and even bookstores.



BERKELEY







BENCH SCIENCE Unlike the Flavr Savr, the first transgenic tomato, which was recalled in 1997 amid bad publicity, now seeds and breeds resilient to climate change and suitable to local and regionally based markets are on the research menu at a growing number of plant

FIGHT THE BLIGHT Late blight, a disease that has been plaguing East Coast tomato plants with increasing frequency, has been monitored and managed with the help of plant breeders, researchers, and product developers. Organic growers, who do not use chemical fungicides, are especially vulnerable to this pathogen, and many have successfully avoided blight-caused damages and losses thanks to the creative work of plant pathologists and biologists.

> BUMPER CROP Honeybees don't pollinate tomatoes because they can't get the pollen, and the flowers don't produce nectar. But recent studies show that many native bees know the trick to extracting tomato pollen, and the plants they pollinate produce larger and more numerous fruit. Growers can attract more native bees through biodiverse hedgerows and intercropped planting.

> > BLISSED OUT Michael Moss's 2013 New York Times Magazine story about engineered food brought widespread attention to the "bliss point," a magic combination of salt, sweet, and flavor common in marinara sauce formulations and snack foods. The taste compels eaters to want more, even if they aren't hungry.

> > HEALTHY KIDS In 2010, the U.S. Congress passed the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, which updated the rules regarding the nutritional standards of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and other child nutrition programs, resulting in increased access to fruits and vegetables for millions of children.

LUNCH LINE No, the USDA didn't literally declare pizza a vegetable in the final 2012 rule on the NSLP nutrition standards. Rather, the ruling over-valued the portion size of tomato paste that constitutes a vegetable serving, keeping it possible for pizza manufacturers to produce a product that schools can declare as containing one vegetable serving.

laywa Montenegro and Sally Smyth TOMATO PHOTOS: iStockphoto

COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES 15