

Tamimi Farms

Who: Zuhair Tamimi

Where: Ha'iku, Maui

What: Tomatoes

A former Bay Area landscape contractor, Tamimi said that at age 8, he grew corn, eggplant and tomatoes on his father's farm in his native Jordan.

He first visited Oahu in 1995, and after not enjoying his time there, he moved to Maui in 1996 and started growing tomatoes in Kula.

He told us a story about a time right before he moved to Hawaii. He already knew he was moving to Hawaii, and visited a palm reader. She told him that she saw him surrounded by lot and lots of boxes in his future. He thought there was no way I am going to be a mover. Little did he know, it would be tomato boxes!



He has all of his own soil, fertilizer, and plants. He also has a "secret recipe" that he has been tinkering with for over 15 years to create the perfect tomato. He did say coconut husks are one of the items he uses. All of his tomatoes are farmed in green houses. He has 3 acres in Haiku, and 13 acres in Olowalu. He has between 3 and 5 employees depending on demand for product. He says one of the differences you will find between his tomatoes and others, is the thin skin that his tomatoes have. It takes about 60 days from seed to picking. He only sells to restaurants, as he finds stores' and farmers markets' demands too difficult to navigate.

All the product we receive is picked the day before we receive it, and is put directly in the box and then put into the van for delivery the following day. Because of the great relationship he has with Peter, and the respect he has for him, he instructs his employees to pick the best tomatoes for Merriman's.

"To me appreciating the product is a big deal."

He currently only grows cherry and beefsteak tomatoes and cucumbers, and is starting to grow strawberries as well.