



TOMATO INFO

Pest Activity in Local fields
Early Maturity Variety Trial

PEST MANAGEMENT NOTES IN LOCAL FIELDS

Fusarium foot rot is now prevalent in many fields. While initially identified in the mid 80's in a few fields in the Woodland area, the distribution of this soil borne fungal pathogen has greatly expanded.

Fusarium wilt, presumably race 3, is also on the rise. While race 3 resistant varieties are available, the choices are limited. Yield losses from Fusarium wilt are much greater than from Fusarium foot rot.

With either of the fusariums, it is reasonable to limit soil movement from contaminated fields by cleaning soil off of equipment.

Russet mite outbreaks are also occurring. Analysis of records by UC Entomologist Frank Zalom and a local PCA indicate russet mite damage is closely linked to the early fruit sizing stage. Therefore, treating plants that are very vegetative (8 weeks before harvest) is too early.

TOMATO VARIETY TRIAL FIELD MEETING NOTICE

Early Maturity Variety Evaluation Trial
11 AM to noon
Thursday, 24 July 2003
Winters area, NE of Russell Blvd x Interstate 505
a light lunch will be available for the first 30 attendees

Ten replicated and 9 observational early maturing processing tomato varieties were direct seeded on twin rows per bed on February 10 in a commercial field with variety APT 410. Cooperators are Tony Turkovich and Martin Medina of Button and Turkovich Ranches near Winters. Plant vigor was very good during the season.

Harvest is anticipated toward the end of July.

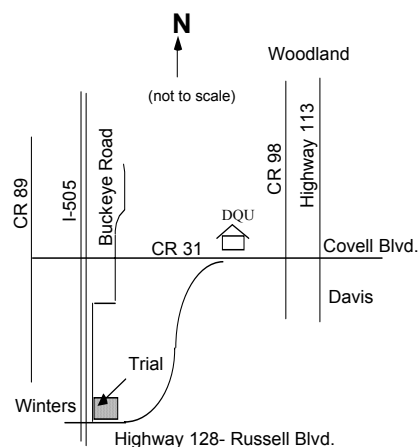
Directions: Field trial is near NE corner of Russell Blvd.
x Interstate 505.

From Highway 113 or CR 98, exit on County Road 31 heading west towards Winters (State Highway 128 is Russell Blvd).

Near base of I-505 overpass, head north 0.5 miles on 'frontage' road, Buckeye Road.

Signs will be posted.

Note: Interstate 505 has a Winters/Highway 128 exit.



FIELD RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Local field research is continuing with:

- 1) optimizing transplant populations on single and double lines,
- 2) comparing transplant to direct seed establishment methods
- 3) evaluating fungicides for Fusarium foot rot control
- 4) terminating winter-grown leguminous cover crops to ease spring seed bed prep
- 5) evaluating potential benefit of mustard-type cover crops
- 6) mid maturity variety evaluations
- 7) monitoring fields for combined high yield with high soluble solids performance
- 8) assisting UC specialists in drip irrigation, conservation tillage and black mold fungicide evaluations.

Submitted by,

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