



# TOMATO INFO

VARIETY MEETING

DISEASE SAMPLE DISPLAY

LOCAL FIELD NOTES

## EARLY MATURITY, TOMATO VARIETY TRIAL

### Field Meeting Notice

Tomato variety trial including display of plant disease samples

10:30am to noon, Thursday, 12 July 2007

Light lunch will be available for the first 20 attendees.

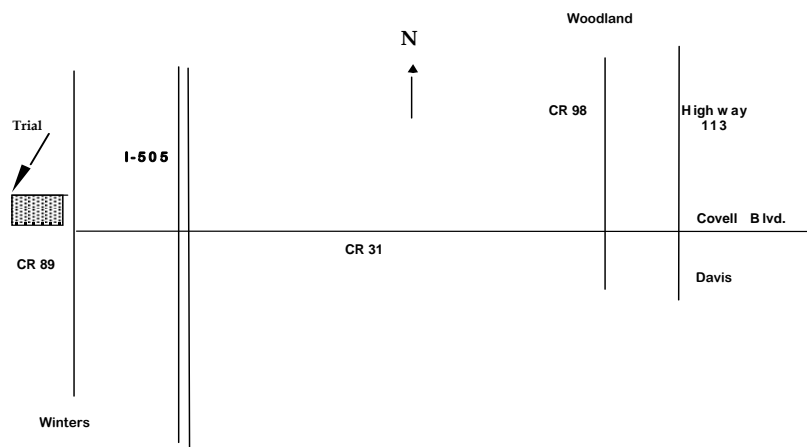
Nine replicated, early maturing processing tomato varieties were transplanted on twin rows per bed on March 17 in a commercial field of APT 410. Cooperator is grower Joe Rominger of D.A. Rominger and Sons. Planting conditions were good. Transplants established and grew well during the season. Fruit size is large as is canopy cover for APT 410. A wide range of maturities is apparent amongst the varieties. H 2206 is the earliest, ahead of H 9280 and 410. Harvest is anticipated sometime after 15th July.

Varieties planted in the test, along with standards APT 410 and H 9280, are BOS 66508, BOS 66509, BOS 1411, Sun 6366, H 2206, H 5003 and HMX 5883.

The 2 standards are also evaluated as double plants per plug compared to singles. Our double plants per plug treatments have larger vines with better canopy cover to protect the fruit. Maturity appears to be delayed several days compared to the single plant per plug standard. Yield might be higher in the doubles, but that is yet to be measured with our commercial harvest into weigh-scaled trailers.

Plant disease sample display will attempt to include Fusarium foot rot, Fusarium wilt, Verticillium wilt, Tomato spotted wilt and curly top.

**Directions:** From Davis/Woodland, head west on County Road 31/Covell Blvd. Continue west beyond DQU, straight westward over I-505 to CR 89. Turn right (North) at the 'T' intersection onto CR 89. Head north for 1/2 mile to a gravel road on the west side. Turn left onto gravel road and continue west for 1/2 mile. Left turn onto field road. Signs will be posted.



## **LOCAL FIELD OBSERVATIONS**

A local seed company rep telephoned during the late spring to express his concern that Verticillium wilt incidence would be higher in tomatoes as a result of the mild spring temperatures. His forecast appears accurate. This vascular pathogen causes a partial loss of canopy and reduces overall plant vigor. The notion that irrigation management would shift toward slightly more frequent irrigations and perhaps a shorter irrigation cut-off than normal may be wise. My limited experience in Vert infested fields is that additional, late supplied nitrogen does not boost plant vigor nor compensate for loss of canopy cover.

Virus infected plants are common in our area, but at low levels. Annually, curly top can be found in local fields. While I have not seen any this year, I suspect alfalfa mosaic affected plants are present (especially with the many alfalfa fields as host plants in our area). Spotted wilt virus is usually infrequent in our area. I've seen a higher incidence in some northern fields this year and heard reports of several fields in Colusa County with this virus.

On a precautionary note: while we haven't seen much powdery mildew in recent years, remain watchful.

And lastly, I have witnessed many impressive tomato crops grown on drip irrigation over the years. The ability to deliver water more precisely and maintain more uniform soil moisture level is probably the key. I've also seen disappointing yields with drip. So management remains an important factor.

Submitted by,

Gene Miyao  
Farm Advisor, Yolo, Solano & Sacramento counties

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TOMATO INFO NEWSLETTER  
**Meeting Notice**  
6 July 2007