



TOMATO INFO

Broomrape Informational Virtual Tomato Meeting

The occurrence of branched broomrape, a parasitic weed, has been reported in local canning tomato fields in recent years (annually from 2017 through 2020). In 2014, several fields in close proximity to each other were reported in San Joaquin County. An infestation resurfaced from an infested tomato field in the 1960s (which remained untreated, but used as pasture), when tomatoes were planted in 2009.

A related species, Egyptian broomrape, was reported in 2014 and in 2016 in adjacent canning tomato fields in Solano County. These 2 fields were fumigated with joint funding support from CDFA and the California canning tomato industry and now continue in tomato production without further incidence.

Field research projects were initiated in 2019 to evaluate chemical control strategies which involved an Israeli-based herbicide program using sulfosulfuron and imazapic in a degree-day schedule to time application to broomrape germination. The 2019 studies were conducted on the Davis campus without broomrape presence. As such, these initial studies investigated crop safety to tomato and to common rotational crops. In 2020, a local grower provided a couple of broomrape-infested acres to allow the UC Davis team of Brad Hanson and grad student Matt Fatino access to evaluate the herbicides on broomrape control. Considerable effort was provided by the grower to manage the few acres of tomato isolated within a grain barley planting. The researchers applied herbicides based on the Israeli protocol and vigilantly counted emerging broomrape clusters over a 10-week period with twice weekly scouting.



A webinar is planned to discuss the summary of their findings as well as to report on other UC Davis campus research related to broomrape control. UC Cooperative Extension Weed Specialist Brad Hanson will be the presenter. CTGA President and CEO Mike Montna will discuss the grower associations-led effort on resolving the broomrape issue.

What: Broomrape Management in Tomato

When: January 12, 2021, Tuesday morning, 10:00 to 11 am

Where: Zoom webinar format- pre-registration required

The California Tomato Research Institute and the California Tomato Growers Association have been actively working with CDFA, Dept of Pesticide Regulation and the local Agricultural Commissioner's office to request potential regulatory solutions. CTGA has also been seeking inclusion of broomrape as part of the federal crop insurance crop loss policy.

We hope you will join in this 'virtual' workshop. This is an open meeting without registration fees. To register, please use the following link:
<http://ucanr.edu/broomrapeinfomtg>

Advanced registration is necessary to receive the meeting's link. The link to the virtual meeting will be emailed in early January to those registered. PCA credits were not requested and thus are not available.

Respectfully submitted,

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