



TOMATO INFO

VARIETY MEETING
 DISEASE SAMPLE DISPLAY
 LOCAL FIELD NOTES

EARLY MATURITY, TOMATO VARIETY TRIAL

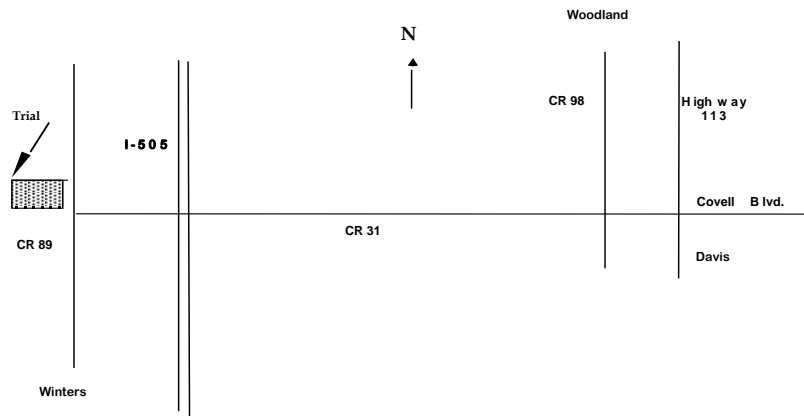
Field Meeting Notice

Tomato variety trial including display of plant disease samples
 10:30am to noon, Monday, 14 July 2008
 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 18 in a commercial field of APT 410. Cooperator is grower Joe Rominger of D.A. Rominger and Sons. While planting conditions were good, growth was slow during the early fruit setting stage. Varieties planted in the test, along with standards APT 410 and H 9280, are AB 4606, BOS 66509, CXD 274, Sun 6366, H 2206, Gem 89 and HED 1058. A wide range of maturities is apparent amongst the varieties. H 2206 is the earliest by far. Harvest is anticipated sometime after 15th July. Variety APT 410 is also evaluated as double plants per plug compared to singles.

Plant disease sample display will attempt to include Fusarium wilt, Verticillium wilt, Tomato spotted wilt, a Tobacco streak-like virus 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 ½ mile to a gravel road on the west side. Turn left onto gravel road and continue west for ½ mile. Left turn onto field road. Signs will be posted.



LOCAL FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Virus infected plants are more prevalent in our area this year. Annually, curly top and alfalfa mosaic are commonly found in local fields, but at low levels, often just as a few curious-looking plants in a field.

Some of the concern is the news of substantial tomato spotted wilt virus problems in some field in Fresno's Westside. We hear reports of Westside growers who initiated preventive and follow-up spray programs for thrip management because of the threat of continued in-field spread of spotted wilt.

For our area: While the virus situation has escalated, I believe we are not close to developing an economic threshold level for thrip (the vector) and thus would be premature in recommending a treatment program that is economically effective.

Presence of another virus is very widespread in our area. The symptoms on plants are an odd combination between tobacco streak and spotted wilt. Young branches have necrotic streaks beginning near the apical growth but extending 5 inches or so at times down the stem. Flower bracts on these branches often are blighted. Necrotic spotting/flecks on the new leaves appear spotted wilt-like. Fruit is without symptoms at this point. Tests have confirmed this suspected virus is neither spotted wilt nor tobacco streak.

Fortunately, alfalfa mosaic virus is not locally prevalent this year even though the vectoring aphids were common this spring and alfalfa fields are abundant.

On a precautionary note: a few PCAs have reported powdery mildew showing up with force in a few fields in the Winters area. While infection can occur earlier, plants at full flowering stage or so may be the most susceptible while plants within a couple of weeks before harvest would benefit the least from a fungicide treatment. We don't have a good handle on which fungicides are the best, but preventive programs, if needed, are more effective. The erratic nature of mildew development and severity makes this a difficult disease to cost effectively manage.

Submitted by,

Gene Miyao
Farm Advisor, Yolo, Solano & Sacramento counties

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