



## TOMATO INFO

Field Notes  
Field Meeting on Varieties

### FIELD NOTES

Powdery mildew incidence is low to non-existent to date.

Fusarium wilt is much more prevalent and scattered about. Since many varieties have Fusarium wilt resistance to Race 1 and 2, we presume the disease is that of Race 3. Fusarium wilt race 3 resistant lines will become more valuable.

Late blight is reported as scattered in many areas of the region. We've had coastal-like fog several weeks ago as well as many dewy mornings together with high humidity within fields. On August 22, we have another foggy morning around the Woodland area. If late blight was established in some fields that are several weeks away from harvest, continued preventive fungicidal sprays might be wise. Broad-spectrum fungicides would have greater utility to cover black mold fruit rot as a preventive as well. Because of the delayed harvest of earlier plantings, we anticipate an overlap of fields ready to be harvested in September. While powdery mildew activity is low to nonexistent to date, that disease should remain a concern. Selecting fungicides such as Quadris Top® might be a part of that fungicidal program. Fields to be harvested in late September and beyond are at reduced risk of severe crop impact from mildew. At that late period, leaf drying won't be as much of a concern because of generally mildew temperatures and shorter days.

Many ripening tomato fields in our area during mid to late August have major vine decline with loss of canopy. I'm working to identify some of the issues together with Extension Pathologist Mike Davis and others. We see many different diseases. Verticillium wilt severity is widespread as usual, but in some case, with greater severity. Fusarium wilt is increasing and should be noted to help guide management decisions in future years. Fusarium foot rot is also occurring. Russet mite damage is visible and expected over the years at various levels. It is not alarming as well as relatively easily controlled. Our bacterial speck from the late spring has clearly had a major impact in many fields. There is more corky root rot in some fields as well. We've discovered another field planted to a nematode resistant variety with severe nematode damage in concentrated spots.

Overall, the level of leaf drying, vine collapse and sun-exposed fruit is high. I am working toward a solution. Within a field, it appears there are several factors involved. Thus, identification remains a key to approaching economic remedies.

### FIELD MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Mid Maturity Tomato Variety Evaluation Trial  
10:30am to noon, **Tuesday, 30 August 2011**  
Woodland-Davis area  
County Road 99 X CR 29 (1 mile south)  
Light lunch will be available for the first 25 attendees.

Seventeen replicated and 13 observational, mid-maturity processing tomato varieties were transplanted April 26 in a commercial field planted to AB 314. Cooperators are Steve Meek and John Pon of J.H. Meek and Sons. Stand establishment was very good. Irrigation was with

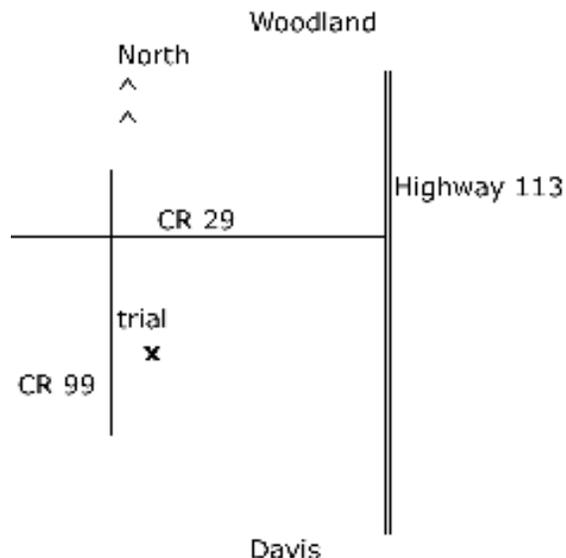
buried drip system. Growth was vigorous until a severe bacterial speck outbreak from rainy weather. Plants were set back and flower drop was substantial in some cases. Regrowth is pronounced on several varieties resulting in a split set. Verticillium wilt is prevalent along with some Fusarium wilt and some Tomato spotted wilt virus. Harvest timing will be a great compromise as maturity is especially divergent because of the set back with bacterial speck. Sun 6366, for example, is relatively late maturity compared to our expectation. Harvest is anticipated in early September.

Directions: From Highway 113, take the CR 29 exit heading west 1 mile to CR 99.

Turn south toward Davis on CR 99 for 1 mile.

The field is on the east side near a lone, giant eucalyptus tree.

Signs will be posted near the field.



### RESEARCH LEADER

Dr. George Johannessen passed away in early July at age 92. George was the founding managing director of the grower-funded California Tomato Research Institute. He frequently extolled the importance of plant root development and health as essential building blocks for high yields and quality.

Submitted by,

Gene Miyao  
Farm Advisor, Yolo, Solano & Sacramento counties

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