

## 2003 FRESH MARKET TOMATO CULTIVARS

*Cerny Farm, Cobden, IL*

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Each year tomato cultivars are evaluated in southern Illinois for early market shipping. This report summarizes the performance of the 24 cultivars grown in the trial at the Cerny Farm near Cobden, in Union County.

The plants used in this observation trial were grown at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center and field set at the Cerny Farm on May 9, 2003. The plots consisted of eight plants grown using a trellis weave training system. The plants were pruned to below first cluster. Plants were spaced 30 inches apart in rows 5 feet apart. The plots were not irrigated. The plots were harvested twice a week for a total of 12 pickings.

The results of the 2003 trial are given in Tables 1 through 4. The cultivars are arranged in the tables in descending order of U.S. No. 1 fruit production.

We wish to express our appreciation for the cooperation of the Cerny Farm in this trial and thank the seed companies for their donations.

Table 1. Top five tomato cultivars, early ( four harvests, 7/14 to 7/24 ).

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>U.S. No. 1 Yield</b> ( pounds/plant )
BHN 543	2.5
Sunbrite	2.3
NC 0256	2.3
Sunguard	2.3
RFT 6153	2.3

Table 2. Top five tomato cultivars, midseason ( four harvests, 7/28to 8/8 ).

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>U.S. No. 1 Yield</b> ( pounds/plant )
Amelia	8.6
Sunbrite	5.8
Sunbeam	5.6
NC 0256	5.1
NC 00239	4.9

Table 3. Top five tomato cultivars, late ( four harvests, 8/11 to 8/25 ).

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>U.S. No. 1 Yield</b> ( pounds/plant )
Carolina Gold*	3.8
Sebring	3.6
BHN 543	2.9
Amelia	2.6
NC 0256	2.2

Table 4. Tomato cultivar performance, full season ( 7/14 to 8/25 ).

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>U.S. No. 1</b>		<b>Mktb. Yield</b> (lb/plant)	<b>Culls</b> (no./plant)
		<b>Yield</b> (lb/plant)	<b>Size</b> (oz)		
Amelia	SW	12.6	12.2	18.2	8.1
Sunbrite	SW	10.1	12.8	15.3	7.8
NC 0256	NC	9.6	11.0	12.7	8.6
Carolina Gold*	RG	9.5	11.5	13.1	6.6
Sebring	RG	9.3	11.4	11.6	7.5
BHN 543	SW	8.4	11.3	13.4	17.6
Sunguard	SW	8.0	11.6	14.2	6.5
Sunbeam	SW	7.9	11.3	13.8	10.4
Floralina	SW	7.7	11.2	12.7	10.7
NC 00239	NC	7.5	9.4	13.2	9.2
Sun Leaper	RG	7.3	10.8	12.5	12.1
NC 00238	NC	7.2	10.9	11.7	9.7
Sunchief	SW	7.1	11.2	10.6	12.8
Florida 47	SW	6.9	11.5	11.2	9.9
NC 0258	NC	6.7	10.2	11.1	10.9
NC 0236	NC	6.5	10.6	11.8	7.9
Mt. Spring	SW	6.0	11.3	10.2	12.5
NC 0227	NC	5.4	11.5	9.2	10.6
RFT 6153	RG	5.3	11.2	8.4	9.8
Fabulous	SW	5.2	12.2	8.8	15.1
BHN 591	SW	4.4	10.8	8.7	13.3
Mt. Crest	NC	4.3	10.0	8.8	16.4
NC 02226	NC	4.1	10.2	9.5	15.2
Sunshine	SW	3.9	9.4	6.6	19.4

\* Yellow tomato