

2004 FRESH MARKET TOMATO CULTIVARS

Cerny Farm, Cobden, IL

Bronwyn Aly

Senior Research Specialist, NRES

Dixon Springs Agricultural Center

University of Illinois, Simpson

Each year tomato cultivars are evaluated in southern Illinois for early market shipping. This report summarizes the performance of the 16 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 11, 2004. 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 11 pickings.

The results of the 2004 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 (three harvests, 7/1 to 7/12).

Cultivar	U.S. No. 1 Yield
	(pounds/plant)
Sunchief	2.5
Sunbeam	2.2
Sunbrite	1.9
Fabulous	1.6
BHN 444	1.5

Table 2. Top five tomato cultivars, midseason (four harvests, 7/15 to 7/26).

Cultivar	U.S. No. 1 Yield
	(pounds/plant)
Sunbrite	4.9
Fabulous	4.2
Soyara	4.1
BHN 543	3.8
NC 0256	3.3

Table 3. Top five tomato cultivars, late (four harvests, 7/29 to 8/12).

Cultivar	U.S. No. 1 Yield (pounds/plant)
Florida 47	4.9
BHN 543	4.0
Fabulous	3.2
NC 0256	3.2
BHN 444	2.6

Table 4. Tomato cultivar performance, full season (7/1 to 8/12).

Cultivar	Source	U.S. No. 1		Mktb. Yield (lb/plant)	Culls (no./plant)
		Yield (lb/plant)	Size (oz)		
Fabulous	SW	9.0	11.5	12.3	9.0
Sunbrite	RI	8.9	10.6	13.9	9.2
BHN 543	SW	8.5	10.1	16.2	13.3
NC 0256	NC	7.9	10.9	12.0	8.4
Florida 47	SW	7.4	9.9	13.9	10.1
BHN 444	SW	7.3	9.7	11.5	15.3
Soyara	SW	6.9	9.8	10.0	10.1
Sunchief	RI	5.8	10.7	8.2	8.8
Sunbeam	RI	5.4	9.6	11.3	13.1
Mt. Spring	RI	5.4	9.8	8.5	13.5
NC 0236	NC	5.0	9.6	11.5	13.0
Florida 91	SW	4.6	9.2	10.3	11.8
BHN 640	SW	4.4	10.4	8.3	17.0
BHN 641*	SW	4.4	9.1	10.3	13.0
NC 0392	NC	3.0	8.7	10.4	13.2
Sunstart	RI	1.7	9.4	3.7	10.4

* Yellow tomato