

## Early Season Tomato Observation Trial, 2005

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Three tomato observation plots were established at Scates' Farm located near Shawneetown in Gallatin County, IL. The plots consisted of 15 cultivars that were planted on three different dates; April 15, May 5, and June 9, 2005. The plots were evaluated for early production. In addition, the investigators wished to examine a comparison between planting varieties of different maturity versus sequential planting of the same cultivar. The plants used in this study were grown at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center. Each plot contained 8 plants, set in a single row, on a raised black plastic mulch bed, with trickle irrigation. The plants were trained using a trellis weave system.

We wish to express our appreciation for the cooperation of Donnie Ahrens and Scates' Farm, as well as the seed companies for their contribution.

The data from the three plots is shown in Tables 1-3, listed in descending order of total pounds of U.S. No. 1 fruit harvested. The late planting, 6/09/05, was only harvested twice due to poor environmental conditions which caused a lack of marketable fruit.

Table 1. Yield data from six harvests from early planting date, 4/15/05.

<b>Variety</b>	<b>U.S. No. 1 (lbs/plant)</b>	<b>Total Mktbl (lbs/plant)</b>	<b>U.S. No. 1 Fruit Size (oz)</b>	<b>Culls (no./plant)</b>
Biltmore	9.4	11.6	12.5	4.8
Amelia	8.1	10.6	10.0	9.0
Sun Leaper	6.4	9.5	10.8	10.1
BHN 586	6.0	9.1	9.5	10.7
Sunsation	5.9	8.4	11.2	6.5
Sunbrite	3.9	6.5	12.2	10.2
RFT 6116	3.9	6.0	9.3	9.4
BHN 543	3.7	7.2	10.8	13.6
BHN 589	3.6	6.5	11.3	13.2
BHN 640	3.5	6.3	10.4	9.4
Indy	3.5	7.1	10.0	14.8
Fabulous	3.3	6.1	11.2	9.5
BHN 444	2.5	4.9	9.5	8.3
ASX 334	2.4	5.6	9.8	14.7
Sunshine	1.7	3.1	11.3	13.9

Table 2. Yield data from seven harvests from midseason planting date, 5/05/05.

<b>Variety</b>	<b>U.S. No. 1 (lbs/plant)</b>	<b>Total Mktbl (lbs/plant)</b>	<b>U.S. No. 1 Fruit Size (oz)</b>	<b>Culls (no./plant)</b>
BHN 589	10.7	13.4	10.8	5.8
Amelia	9.3	12.6	10.1	5.1
Biltmore	9.0	11.1	11.0	7.7
Florida 91	8.4	11.4	10.6	7.0
Crista	8.4	11.3	9.9	8.2
Sunbrite	8.1	10.5	11.9	6.0
Florida 47	8.0	11.5	10.5	7.5
Sun Leaper	7.4	12.2	9.8	10.2
BHN 543	7.2	9.8	11.0	10.2
ASX 334	7.1	10.7	10.1	10.0
Mt. Fresh Plus	6.6	9.9	10.8	7.8
BHN 444	5.9	9.1	11.0	10.3
Fabulous	5.2	8.0	10.8	12.0
Sebring	3.3	4.7	10.6	14.7
Soraya	2.2	3.3	11.0	12.9

Table 3. Yield data from two harvests from late season planting date, 6/09/05.

<b>Variety</b>	<b>U.S. No. 1 (lbs/plant)</b>	<b>Total Mktbl (lbs/plant)</b>	<b>U.S. No. 1 Fruit Size (oz)</b>	<b>Culls (no./plant)</b>
ASX 334	2.1	3.3	10.8	1.1
Crista	1.9	2.3	12.2	1.4
BHN 586	1.7	3.5	9.7	1.5
BHN 589	1.6	2.6	10.7	2.2
Mt. Fresh Plus	1.5	2.5	10.9	0.8
Florida 91	1.5	2.1	11.4	1.0
Amelia	1.4	2.3	11.8	0.8
Sun Leaper	1.2	2.0	9.1	0.6
Florida 47	1.2	1.7	10.7	1.1
Sunbrite	1.1	2.1	9.8	3.4
BHN 543	1.0	2.0	10.7	1.1
BHN 640	1.0	1.9	10.0	2.8
Fabulous	0.9	1.4	10.3	2.5
RFT 6153	0.9	2.6	9.6	1.4
BHN 444	0.7	2.2	11.2	3.6