

**EVALUATION OF FRESH MARKET TOMATO CULTIVARS  
FOR SOUTHERN OHIO, 2005**

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This cultivar trial evaluated 10 cultivars for their suitability in southern Ohio.

**METHODS:**

Seeds were planted on May 20<sup>th</sup> into 98-cell trays containing a peat-vermiculite soilless mix. Cells were thinned as needed to 1 plant/cell. Transplants were set into raised beds (covered with black plastic mulch with trickle irrigation under the plastic) 18" apart in the row on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Plots were ten feet long. Rows were 5 foot apart. Experimental design was randomized complete block with 4 replications. The field is located in southern Ohio, at the Ohio State University South Centers research and Demonstration plots, located at Southern State Community College. 120 units of N, P and K was incorporated prior to applying the mulch. Weed control was accomplished using Dual Magnum @ 2 pint/acre. A standard commercial fungicide and insecticide program was followed, following OSU Bulletin #672, The Vegetable Production Guide, was followed, on a 7-10 day schedule.

**RESULTS:**

Average fruit weight of .54 lbs was the same across all cultivars. Total pounds per acre ranged from a high of 102,967 pounds per acre to a low of 67,290 pounds per acre. Total boxes per acre ranged from a high of 4,119 boxes to a low of 2,692 boxes per acre. Cultivars that look good this year include Mountain Crest, Sebring and BHN 688. Yields were very good but as mentioned in the methods these are small plots. On a commercial scale yields are expected to be lower due to the management difficulty in thoroughly picking a large field compared to a small plot.

| <u>Cultivar</u> | <u>Seed Source</u> | <u>Marketable lbs. per acre</u> | <u>25 lb. Boxes per acre</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mountain Crest  | SW                 | 102967                          | 4119                         |
| Sebring         | SW                 | 101981                          | 4079                         |
| BHN 688         | BHN                | 101409                          | 4056                         |
| BHN 665         | BHN                | 94509                           | 3781                         |
| XP 1000         | SW                 | 92919                           | 3717                         |
| BHN 589         | BHN                | 91833                           | 3673                         |
| Soraya          | RG                 | 85262                           | 3410                         |
| Applause        | RG                 | 75571                           | 3023                         |
| RFT 6116        | RG                 | 72643                           | 2906                         |
| Indy            | SW                 | 67290                           | 2692                         |