

2002 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 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 15, 2002. 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. Accounting for field roads, this results in an approximate population of 2675 plants per acre. The plots were not irrigated. The plots were harvested twice a week for a total of 11 pickings.

The results of the 2002 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, 7/2 to 7/15).

Cultivar	U.S. No. 1 Yield
	(pounds/plant)
Sunchief	0.5
Floralina	0.5
Fabulous	0.4
RFT 6153	0.4
NC 00238	0.4

Table 2. Top five tomato cultivars, midseason (four harvests, 7/22 to 8/1).

Cultivar	U.S. No. 1 Yield
	(pounds/plant)
BHN 543	4.6
Fabulous	4.6
Sunchief	4.4
RFT 6153	4.0
Sun Leaper	3.8

Table 3. Top five tomato cultivars, late (four harvests, 8/5 to 8/19).

Cultivar	U.S. No. 1 Yield (pounds/plant)
Floralina	1.6
NC 00238	1.6
BHN 543	1.4
Sunchief	1.3
NC 00239	1.3

Table 4. Tomato cultivar performance, full season (7/2 to 8/19).

Cultivar	Source	U.S. No. 1		Mktb. Yield (lb/plant)	Culls (no./plant)
		Yield (lb/plant)	Size (oz)		
BHN 543	SW	6.3	9.3	10.6	7.6
Sunchief	SW	6.2	9.4	8.9	3.9
Floralina	SW	5.8	9.6	10.0	7.0
Fabulous	SW	5.8	10.9	8.5	8.3
Sun Leaper	RG	5.0	9.2	9.3	8.8
Mt. Spring	RG	4.7	10.4	7.2	6.7
RFT 6153	RG	4.6	10.7	8.3	10.2
BHN 444	SW	4.5	9.4	9.3	7.4
NC 00239	NC	4.4	9.1	7.6	5.6
NC 00238	NC	4.0	8.6	9.0	8.1
BHN 555	SW	3.8	10.1	7.4	6.7
NC 0016	NC	3.2	8.8	8.0	12.8
Mountain Crest*	NC	3.1	9.9	6.3	14.1
BHN 189	SW	2.9	9.7	6.9	14.2
NC 96365	NC	2.8	10.0	7.3	10.6
Sunshine	SW	1.0	9.4	1.8	7.3

*This variety was named over the course of the year. Last year's number was NC 98100.