

Tomato Luncheon Honors Producers Who Reach Harvest Milestone

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for a 42.7 tons per acre average yield. His average A grade was 66.6 percent and ranking value of 28.2.

Peto 696, Heinz 9704, Heinz 9035, Heinz 9706, Heinz 9422, and Gem 611 were grown in 338 plug trays and the 5 week-old tomato plants were transplanted from April 27 to May 24, 2002. The tomato transplants were planted with a Lannen carousel transplanter at a population of 13,500 plants per acre. The tomatoes were grown on beds that were 66 inches on center and the double rows were spaced 19 inches apart with 14 inches between plants in the row.

Tomatoes are rotated in a 3-year program with corn, wheat-vetch, or beans. The rotation consists of corn-tomatoes-wheat-vetch or corn-corn-tomatoes or corn-corn-beans-tomatoes. There was no lime or manure applied to the fields in 2002.

Prior to planting the tomatoes, 80N-100P-200K was broadcast and incorporated into the soil. When the tomato transplants were being placed in the field, 12 pounds of 10N-54P-4K starter fertilizer was used in the transplant



Bill and Cheryl Troxell, Richfield. Bill was honored with the industry award at the Tomato Awards Luncheon at the recent Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey.

water. The tomatoes were sidedressed with 30 gallons per acre of Nitro Plus with micronutrients three to four weeks after transplanting the tomatoes in the field. Several applications of 5N-10P-27K at 5 pounds per acre were made either as a foliar application or injected into the drip irrigation system.

There was no preplant herbicide treatment applied prior to transplanting the tomatoes. A post application of Matrix

at 1 ounce per acre and Sencor at 4 ounces per acre was made 10 days after transplanting the tomatoes. Some fields received two applications of Matrix and Sencor tank mix.

The most difficult weed to control in 2002 was giant ragweed. Fungicides were applied on a 7-10 day spray schedule throughout the growing season. Champ II plus Dithane, Bravo, and Quadris were alternated throughout the grow-

ing season. Actiguard was applied 3 times at two-week intervals three weeks after transplanting the tomatoes. Both aphids and spider mites were the most difficult insects to control in 2002 even with the application of dimethoate or Lannate.

Class III (45-60 Acres) Jacob Heisey

Jacob Heisey, Jersey Shore, won the award for the highest tomato yield in Class III for growers with 45 to 60 acres. Heisey Farms harvested 1,786.8 tons of usable fruit for Furman Foods on 45.3 acres for a 39.4 tons per acre average yield. His average A grade was 62.3 percent and ranking value was 23.3.

Varieties grown included Heinz 9423 and Heinz 9035. Heisey used transplants from Georgia as plugs and New Jersey as plugs at a population of 11,800 plants per acre. The single rows are planted on a 9-inch plant spacing in the row and 56 inches between rows. They were planted from May 17 through June 1, 2002.

Tomatoes are rotated in a 3-year program with corn in year one followed by two years of soybeans. Lime and fertilizer were applied according to soil test recommendations.

Calcitic lime was applied at the rate of 2,000 pounds per acre prior to field preparation. Muriate of potash was plowed down at the rate of 300 to 500 pounds per acre depending on individual field requirements.

N-P-K was supplied with the application of 60 gallons per acre banded of a liquid 6-6-12 material. In addition, the tomatoes were sidedressed with 20 gallons per acre of 28 percent N. There was no manure applications to any of the fields.

Weeds were controlled with tankmix application of Sencor at 3 ounces per acre, Matrix at 2 ounces per acre, and Kinetic at 2 pints per 100 gallons of water as an early post application. The most difficult weed to control in 2002 was eastern black nightshade.

Dithane at 2 pounds per acre and Bravo at 2-3 pints per acre were used in rotation with Quadris at 6 ounces per acre on a 7- to 10-day schedule to control diseases. There were also several applications of Nucop liquid at 2 pints per acre during the growing season.

Insects were controlled with the following insecticides applied during the growing sea-

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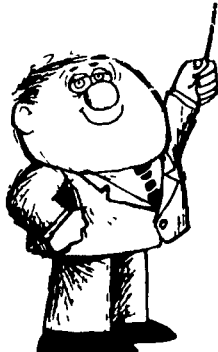
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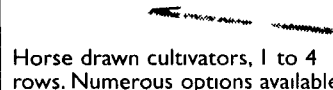
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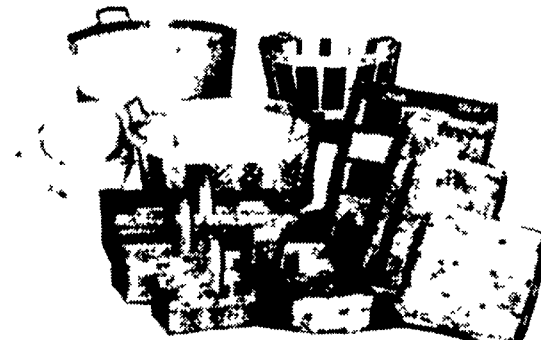
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