

Performance of Tomato Cultivars within a High Tunnel

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Introduction:

²Ten tomato cultivars were evaluated within a high tunnel in 2003. In late January, seed of 10 tomato cultivars was seeded in 72-cell Protrays in the University of Missouri Horticulture Greenhouses. All cultivars were hand-transplanted April 5, 2003 in four research high tunnels. Standard cultural practices for high tunnel tomato production were followed. Tomatoes were pruned at first flowering. Harvest commenced on June 26, 2003 and continued until July 17. Quality was assessed by a panel of Regional Horticulture Specialists.

Results:

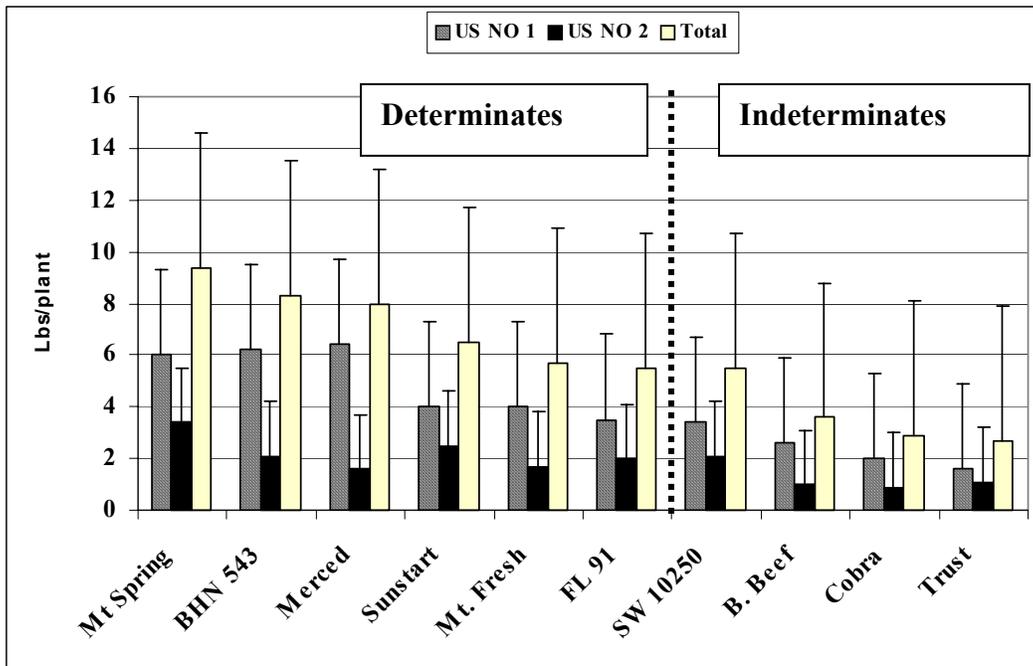


Figure 1. Marketable yield of tomatoes harvested for 3 weeks within a high tunnel. June 26-July 17, 2003. For early-season marketable yield, determinates are preferred. Within a 3 week harvest period, 'Mt. Spring', 'BHN 543', and 'Merced' produced ≥ 8 lbs of marketable fruit per plant.

²Thanks to Rupp Seeds for providing seeds for this evaluation.

Indeterminate tomatoes produce relatively less fruit per week but have an extended harvest window compared with determinate tomatoes.

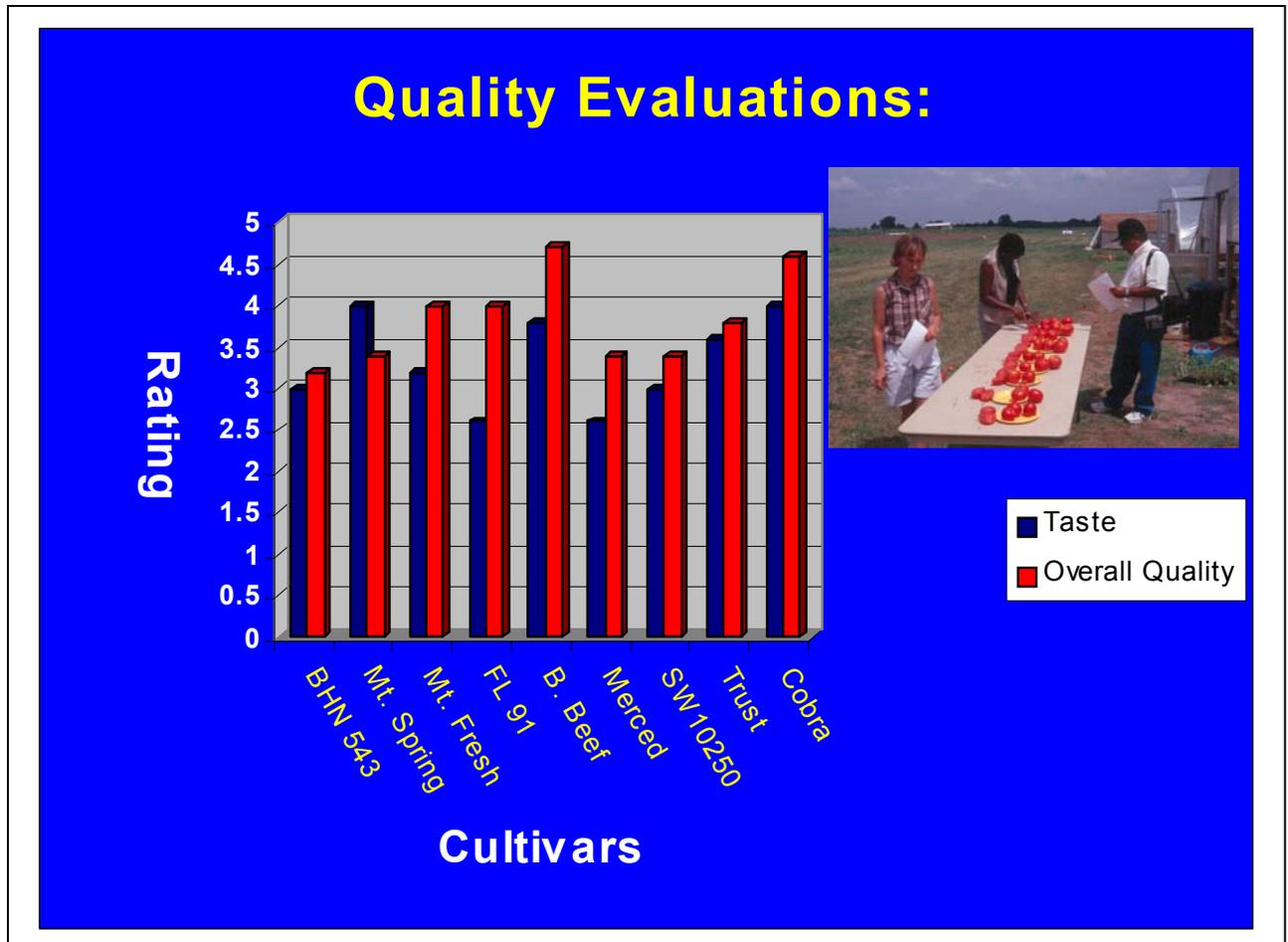


Figure 2. Quality evaluation of tomatoes within a high tunnel.

Taste: 1-5 (1=Poor, 5=Excellent)

Overall Quality: 1-5 (1=Poor, 5=Excellent)