2013 Capital District Tomato Variety Trial

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Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program
2013 Tomato Variety Trial

- Host: John Altobelli, Altobelli Family Farms in Kinderhook, NY (Columbia County)
Seeded: April 19, 288 cells. Potted on 48 cell trays May 16.
Field planted June 19, 2013 (late, late!)
Planting specs: 6.5’ centers on black plastic mulch with a single row of drip tape with 2’ in-row spacing.

Plots were 10 plants replicated 2X for a total of 20 plants per variety.
• Plants were staked and pruned in the Florida Basket Weave system
• Tomatoes were scouted and appropriate fungicides were applied (both protective and systemic)
• Fertility was adjusted by the grower to achieve 120 pounds of Nitrogen, 60 pounds of Phosphorous and 120 pounds of Potassium per acre.

I was concerned that suckers were a little too big when the time came to be pruning, but we pruned!
2013 Tomato Variety Trial

- Sizing Categories:
  - **Extra Large** = fruit that were larger than 12 ounces and blemish free
  - **Large Fruit** = fruit that were 10 – 12 ounces each and blemish free.
  - **Medium** = fruit that are 8 - 10 ounces and blemish free
  - **Small** = fruit that are 6 – 8 ounces and blemish free
  - Harvested September 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2013
Seconds = fruit that are generally within the above size categories but are cosmetically blemished.
Culls = fruit that are just not marketable due many different circumstances.
BHN 589 — smaller this year than normal — Radial cracking an issue — Still one of the most attractive and best tasting!
Biltmore – decent yielding (lg, med esp.)
Later variety, good color and firm when full ripe, decent shape, fairly attractive
Brickyard – decent yield potential for Extra large and Large fruit, fairly attractive but somewhat soft – seconds and culls due to cracking. Not going to be a shipper!
BSS 1056 - Large-med

large stem scar-small to medium blossom scar, more orange color than red- but very firm, tall flat-tall, mostly round, slightly oblong, subtle lobe on bottom.
Charger – large, rough stem scar and some blotchy ripening but fruit and large, with good yields! Firm, fair amount of seconds and culls!
EZ 025 – nice looking but might be too small? Mostly medium and small marketable fruit
Fletcher – Bred more for the shipping market but does well as a fresh market variety. Excellent yields, size and uniformity. Slightly tall, pointed fruit but not as pointed as Primo Red. Firm even when overripe.
Iron Lady – small, fair amount of cracking, more of an orangey red color and still succumbed to early blight!
Mountain Majesty

— excellent yielding and attractive overall – nice internal appearance also (Crimson gene). Not a lot of seconds or culls either.
Mt. Merit – small for some of our markets, but overall fruit quality is not bad – fairly attractive – few too many seconds? Late blight resistant
Mt. Fresh Plus - still a standard for many, more angled shape decent size and yields, but fair amount of seconds due to cracks - firm
Mt. Glory – attractive and potential for large fruit in other trial years. Note the small stem scar – probably would go with Mt. Majesty.
Primo Red – still our best early yielding and in the top 5 for flavor – attractive, but fruit have a tendency to be strongly pointed.
Red Bounty – Fairly attractive, maybe more orangey color, fairly soft – somewhat angled, not much lobe, variable with some pointed fruit but potential for big fruit!
Red Defender -
Soft, rough stem scar large, small blossom scar, tall globe, slight lobe, “Doesn’t do much for me”, blotchy ripening (not uniform) - not very attractive overall
Red Deuce - would recommend Red Bounty, Red Morning due to slightly better overall fruit quality – lot of seconds and culls from cracking and “skin blemishes”
Red Morning – new release from Harris, pretty attractive with less tendency for pointed fruit – good potential for large, attractive fruit. Worth trying, especially for early!
Red Mountain – nice overall fruit, but smaller compared to Red Bounty, Red Morning and Mt. Majesty
RFT 6153 – deemed to be the replacement for Mt. Fresh – lots of big fruit, just not always the most attractive. Also not bad tasting – Fairly lg, rough stem scar and more orangey color than red.
Rockytop — variety more bred for the south but has done well here for a lot of growers. Overall is attractive with a typical high percentage of Lg fruit, so not the biggest in the trial. But consistent shape (tall round), good color - Firm even when dead ripe – good shipper type if you need it.
Scarlet Red - Large rough looking stem scar, firm, medium orangey-red, little yellow halo, medium blossom scar, slightly oblong, little lobed - still one of the most attractive looking tomatoes but too susceptible to cracking.
Seventy III — new release from Syngenta — Attractive overall with good color and nice shape. Consistent within the size categories but might be on the small side and too many seconds? Need to see again!
Summerpick - Medium rough stem scar, medium blossom scar, firm, orangey-red, mostly tall, lobed, slightly pointed, variable with some flats, overall fruit size is small and too many seconds from cracking and blemishes.
SV 4725 - Large rough stem scar, fairly firm, medium blossom scar, tall-ish /round, a few slightly oblong, medium red - too many seconds due to cracking and other issues.
SV 7101 - Size is consistent, small-med stem scar, small blossom scar, tall globe, round to oblong, slight lobe, fairly firm, not bad looking. Slightly pointed (especially small/med), orangey-red, too many seconds due to cracking and other issues.
Volante – was excellent in 2012 trials and looked good again this year. Very attractive, firm, nice red color, good flavor and fairly uniform- also comes in a little earlier than what is listed – nice companion to Primo Red
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<th>Summary – What I would recommend?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primo Red</td>
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<td>Mountain Majesty</td>
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<td>Seventy III (for slightly smaller fruit size)</td>
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Thank You!

A special thanks to John and Becky Altobelli for hosting this tomato variety trial.

And to the seed companies that contributed:

- Seedway
- Siegers Seed Company
- Rupp Seed Company
- Harris Seed Company
- High Mowing Seed Company