

Nematode Survey – Tomato Growers Needed

A new research project has begun to survey for which plant-parasitic nematodes are present in Ontario fresh market and processing tomato fields. In conjunction with the survey, we will be working to update economic thresholds for field tomatoes, even looking at differences between tomato cultivars grown in Ontario. We will also be evaluating lab methods used to process soil samples for nematode counts and identify the method most effective for Ontario tomato cropping systems. Future phases of the project will evaluate management practices to reduce economic damage from the most common plant parasitic nematodes identified in the survey.

We are now looking for tomato growers to participate in our survey.

WHO?

- Tomato growers in Essex, Kent, and Norfolk County.
- 2015 tomato fields.
- We are especially interested in fields that may have underperformed in previous years when tomatoes were grown.

WHEN?

- Sampling will be completed by members of the research team
 - For nematodes:
 - Just prior to or just after transplanting
 - July
 - Late August to late September
 - Soil will also be sampled for physical properties (pH, texture, etc.) during the growing season.
- A report with nematode and soil physical properties results will be sent to each participating growers with field-specific results (delivered in winter months).

WHAT ELSE?

- Participating growers must also agree to participate in survey regarding field history and production practices.
- All field-specific results will remain confidential.

WHO DO I CONTACT TO PARTICIPATE?

- Janice LeBoeuf (OMAFRA vegetable specialist), 519-674-1699, janice.leboeuf@ontario.ca
- Cheryl Trueman (University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus), 519-674-1500 x63646, ctrueman@uoguelph.ca

This project is being led by Dr. Katerina Jordan at the University of Guelph. Funding is provided by the OMAFRA-University of Guelph Partnership, the Fresh Vegetable Growers of Ontario, and the Ontario Tomato Research Institute.