Increasing Products and Profits

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Moderator: Mr. Forrest Connelly

INFLUENCE OF BM86 ON YIELD AND RETURN OF PEPPER AND TOMATO

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BM86 has been studied in on-farm trials with pepper and tomato in South Carolina. The objective of these trials was to determine the influence of BM86 on yield and gross return of these crops.

BM86 was applied as a foliar application at the rate of 3 pts./ac/application. Foliar applications were made at first flower, 7 to 14 days after first flower, and 7 to 14 days after the second application. The BM86 was applied with a CO_2 powered plot sprayer equipped with hollow cone spray tips calibrated to apply a spray volume of 40 gallons/ac. These trials were conducted as randomized complete block studies with four replications. Plot size for the tomato trial was one row by 50 ft. in length. Plot size for the pepper trials was one twin row bed by 60 ft. in length. Eight plants from the tomato study were harvested. A 12 ft. section of the twin bed was harvested in the pepper trials. Fruit weight and number were recorded in each plot.

BM86 increased pepper yield at the first harvest, in terms of fruit number, by 6738 fruit per acre as compared to the control treatment. This was a 24% increase in fruit number. Total pepper yield was increased by 2083 lbs/ac as compared to the control. Tomato yield was increased 5150 lbs/ac by using BM86 in comparison to the grower's standard treatment. The primary yield increase from the BM86 is due to the increase in the number of fruit produced. The influence of BM86 on fruit number and weight yields of the various size grades of tomatoes and peppers will be discussed. The influence of BM86 on gross return of pepper and tomato will be discussed.