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**Hang Up the Hoe – Improved Weed Management Tools**

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Moderator: Mr. Chris Leek

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**WEED MANAGEMENT IN FLORIDA TOMATO**

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With the reduction in the use of methyl bromide in Florida tomato production, the use of herbicides will be necessary to attain control of the weeds that may escape the methyl bromide alternatives. Weed control between rows will remain, for the most part, similar to previous production methods. Row middle weed control options are limited in Florida. Just prior to transplant an application of Dual Magnum at 1 pt/A plus metribuzin at 0.5 lb ai/A (several trade names) may be made. Gramoxone Inteon at 2 pt/A plus a crop oil concentrate at 1% v/v may be added if weeds are present. An additional application of metribuzin is permitted, but not within 14 days of the initial application. Sandea at 0.75 oz/A and Matrix at 2 oz/A may be applied to the row middles for control of nutsedge species and broadleaf weeds. Add a non-ionic surfactant at 0.25% v/v. For all row middle treatments, a shield sprayer should be used to limit contact of the herbicide with the plastic mulch or the crop.

Options for weed control under the mulch are available and their use is expected to increase as growers switch to methyl bromide alternatives. The State of Florida has received a use for Eptam 7-E at 3 pt/A applied just prior to laying of plastic for the control of nutsedge species and broadleaf weeds. Devrinol at 2 lbs ai/A and Dual Magnum at 0.75 pt/A may be applied to the bed top just prior to laying of the plastic mulch. Oxyflourfen (Goal 2XL and Goaltender) may be applied prior to laying of

the plastic mulch only if tomato transplanting will not occur within 30 days of application. Sandea at 0.75 oz/A may be applied just prior to laying the plastic mulch for control of nutsedge species. However, this product may be better used as a postemergence spray directed at the base of the plants after the nutsedge has penetrated the plastic. Every grower is urged to try each of these products to determine the best fit in their production practices.

Once the tomatoes have been established at least 14 days there are some post directed options for weed control. Sandea at 0.75 oz/A is labeled for use over the top of tomatoes, but for maximum coverage of the nutsedge species a post directed application may be necessary. The same use is labeled for Matrix at a rate of 2 oz/A, but a post directed application may provide better control. Envoke at 0.2 oz/A may be applied post directed to tomato for control of nutsedges, pigweeds, and morningglories. When using Envoke, Matrix, and Sandea postemergence, include a non-ionic surfactant at 0.25% v/v and target broadleaf weeds when they are 2 inches or less and actively growing.

Development of a weed control strategy for tomatoes will be important for all growers as we transition from the use of methyl bromide. Growers are encouraged to begin the development a system that will maximize weed efficacy while minimizing the possibility of crop injury.

