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NONTOX-SILICA™ AND THE PRODUCTION OF TOMATO (CV, Hercules)

TREATMENTS

1. Control, standard treatment by the farmer with no application of silicon.
2. Foliar sprays with 200ml per 100 litre water. Eight sprays were applied starting 4 weeks after transplanting. Application rate = 122 litres increasing to 4000 litre per ha of the spray solution.
3. Foliar sprays with 400ml per 100 litre water. Eight sprays were applied starting 4 weeks after transplanting. Application rate = 125 litres increasing to 4150 litres per ha of the spray solution.

Experimental plots was 10 running metres of a commercial planting with 5 replications per treatment allocated randomly. The treatments were evaluated 12 weeks after transplanting by removing the total above ground vegetative growth and fruit per plot.

RESULTS

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>1. Control</i>	<i>200ml Nontox Silica^R</i>	<i>400ml Nontox Silica^R</i>
<i>Total above ground yield in kg per plant</i>	8,00 ^a	10,01 ^{ab}	8,80 ^a
<i>Total above ground yield of vegetative material in kg per plant</i>	5,97 ^a	7,32 ^b	6,06 ^a
<i>Total fruit yield in kg per plant</i>	2,04 ^a	2,69 ^b	2,74 ^b
<i>Improvement in yield over control %</i>	-	32	34
<i>Vegetative : Fruit yield</i>	2,93	2,73	2,21
<i>Mass per fruit in grams</i>	48,57 ^a	58,39 ^b	63,11 ^b
<i>Fruit density in grams per ml</i>	1,06	1,05	1,14
<i>Early blight infection %</i>	14	10	7,6
<i>Bollworm damaged fruit %</i>	11,7	6,4	3,7

CONCLUSIONS

Foliar sprays with Nontox Silica^R increased not only fruit yield but also fruit size and fruit density and reduced the incidence of Early blight and bollworm damage.

Although the higher dosage (400ml Nontox Silica^R per 100 litres water) results in better yields than the lower dosage, the differences were variable and substantial improvement in returns is possible at 200ml Nontox Silica^R per 100 litre water.

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