

**Demonstration of an IPM Protocol for Fresh Market Tomatoes
December, 1998**

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Background and Justification: IPM procedures for tomatoes were developed in New York the late 1980's and were updated in 1996 to include new disease forecasting programs and thresholds, and to make them more applicable to fresh market tomatoes. The new procedures need to be looked at in the field for a number of seasons to see how they perform under a variety of conditions. Testing the new tomato procedures has become increasingly important in light of recent developments in IPM labeling. Tomato growers may have opportunities to promote their tomatoes under an IPM label in the future. We need to continue to evaluate and improve the revised procedures to ensure that growers have a set of procedures that will reliably produce a high quality crop while minimizing pesticide use and environmental impact.

Objectives:

- 1) Develop a set of IPM Elements for fresh market tomatoes and a set of criteria for shifting from TOMCAST to late blight forecasting.
- 2) Set up side by side demonstrations at five locations comparing grower practices with the Cornell IPM protocols and evaluate late blight forecasting for tomatoes.
- 3) Identify needed improvements in the IPM procedures or late blight forecast to incorporate in future versions.
- 4) Evaluate tomato quality at harvest, number of insecticide and fungicide sprays, environmental impact, and cost of adopting IPM practices compared with the grower's current practice.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

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