

BT. 15-1, A NEW SALAD TYPE OF TOMATO LINE

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BT. 15-1 is a new tomato genotype having the traits of high yields, acceptable salad type, long shelf life and good handling qualities with field resistance to bacterial wilt in favourable combination. This type of tomato variety can be considered as a national need as such a variety is not available in the presently cultivated varieties. BT. 15-1 originated from a cross between a local variety T.245 and a Colombian introduction and was developed at the Central Agricultural Research Institute, Gannoruwa.

Growth habit of BT. 15-1 is determinate with an intermediate plant size having inflexible stem characters. Fruits are predominantly lengthened heartshape with almost uniform fruit size. Fruit length ranged from 4-5cm having more numbers of equal size transverse sections oval in shape. Skin colour of ripe fruit is red but at the beginning of ripening it is blochy. Long shelf life and good handling qualities of fruits are attributed to their rigged pericarp walls of which the thickness is about 7mm and the presence of two locules that are filled with fleshy placenta and few seeds. Radial and concentric cracking are none or very seldom on fruits.

The pH of ripen fruit juice is about 4.2 having lower titrable acidity of 0.51% citric acid. Soluble solids of the fruit juice is about 4.5 (brix scale) and the total solid content of the fruit without skin and seeds is about 5.1%

Under experimental conditions, BT. 15-1 recorded about 32 t/ha of fruit yield in 3½ months having 4-5 clusters per plant with 8-10 fruits per cluster. This particular tomato genotype is being tested under farmer's conditions in the tomato growing areas at Welimada, Hanguranketha and Matale.