

# Tomato

## Rijk Zwaan Cropinfo

May 2006



### Tomato Rootstock

**Big Power RZ.** In the Netherlands for 2006 there are 200 ha of Big Power RZ in production. In Canada/ USA we have about 25 ha. Results were already known to be positive from trials in the 2004 and 2005 seasons. So this year growers wanted to see in larger areas how this rootstock differs from our competition. They are finding it gives adequate vigor to the top plant combined with a more generative steering. So for long cropping the vigor is the same as what growers are used to. The generative steering maximizes fruit setting, fruit size and overall production. Many current tomato varieties can benefit from this type of rootstock and especially varieties that have a vigorous growth habit.

### Large Truss Tomato

**Bonvivant RZ.** This variety is continuing to show its value where growers need the potential to produce large fruit in extreme climates while maintaining quality. A very vegetative nature is what gives Bonvivant RZ its ability to deal with these extremes. This plant demands that it be grown in a generative manner. If not, fruit setting will be compromised. With careful planning in regards to the planting time and the general growing practices to be used, it will reward the grower with high yields of quality fruit. For short crop cycles, no grafting is necessary. Big Power RZ makes a great choice of rootstock for longer cropping.



*"Nice early start, but Locatelli RZ will be chosen more for its summer and finishing production."*

**Locatelli RZ (72-460 RZ).** This variety has made it into many trials for this season. Locatelli RZ is another Rijk Zwaan variety offering outstanding on the vine fruit presentation. Fruit quality and colouring are also very good. The truss development offers enough room for the fruit to lay flat in the box. Fruit size is showing to be positive with averages of about 140 grams for the first truss of fruit this season. When we look higher up the plant to the next fruit truss', we can see the average fruit size will be higher in the coming weeks. This plant displays a relatively high amount of vigor but remains easy enough to manage. The fruit set is easier and more consistent comparing to Bonvivant RZ. Nice round, flat tomatoes should be expected. We are very pleased with this variety as it has the vigor to go through the hot summers combined with a consistent fruit setting. Grafting is normally recommended for Locatelli RZ. This will be the variety to watch through the summer months!



*"Fast, even fruit setting in the same truss. This truss development allows for a lay flat finished product. "*

## Large Beef Tomato

**Heritage RZ.** Our main beef variety for the North American market keeps making inroads where growers are looking for a consistent fruit setting. The first set comes on fast and fruit size remains very even within the fruit truss. Setting remains strong through the crop cycle. As Heritage RZ has a generative nature, it can be grown in an average greenhouse climate. Typical pre night temperature cues should still be used to maximize the fruit size. Grafting for long cropping is recommended. Ask us about viewing these varieties in our own "Demonstration Greenhouse"!

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