

**BENEFITS OF TRANSPLANTING TOMATO WITHIN ONE WEEK OF HALOSULFURON APPLICATION.** Joseph G. Masabni, Fruit and Vegetable Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky Research and Education Center, Princeton, KY 42445.

Halosulfuron (Sanda 75WG) is labeled for pre- or post-transplant use in tomato, cucumber, cantaloupe, among other vegetable crops. For pre-transplant usage, the label specifies a 7 day waiting period after halosulfuron application under the plastic mulch before transplanting tomatoes. This period may be too long for growers who are busy in the spring with planting and pesticide sprays while on a race with the constantly changing climate of early spring.

Experiments were set up in 2003 and 2004 to determine whether transplanting tomato within 7 days after halosulfuron application affects tomato survivability and yields. In 2003, tomatoes were transplanted on a daily basis from day 0 through day 7 after halosulfuron application under the plastic mulch. Plant survival and height were collected in 2003. In 2004, tomatoes were set on a 2-day interval from day 0 through 10 after halosulfuron application under the plastic mulch. Plant height, visual rating, % early blight, and yields were collected in 2004.

In 2003, all tomato plants survived transplanting in halosulfuron treated soil for all days of transplanting. Plant height indicated that tomato plants transplanted early were taller than those transplanted late, only because they had more time to establish and grow in the field. There was no adverse effect to tomato plants from halosulfuron application.

In 2004, a severe infection of early blight confounded the results of herbicide applications. Still, none of the herbicide treatments including halosulfuron at 0.023 or 0.047 lb ai had any effect on plant height and visual rating. Yields were not statistically different from those of the control, when the effect of early blight was factored out.