

# RESEARCH FOR RESULTS



## **A HOME GARDENERS FIRST REPORT: SoilBiotics products providing much improved results in 2016 residential container Tomato crop - **UPDATED** **8/3/16****

Residential container gardening of tomatoes has its own set of challenges, and in many cases results in less-than hoped for results. Plants don't grow to expected sizes or yield acceptable amounts of fruit. This year, one of our own employees decided to conduct an informal experiment using SoilBiotics products in addition to the same nutrient program he'd used previously for several years, utilizing the same types/brand of plants. This test has so far resulted in the best-ever start for his deck container garden, and a substantial increase in blossoms and fruit set. He is using the same potting soil mix (Miracle-Gro) as in previous years. Watering is relatively continuous at every 3 days depending on rainfall.

Containers were filled with approximately 30-40 pounds of potting mix and then 4 oz. of granular fertilizer (Miracle-Gro Tomato shaker – 9-4-12 with Calcium) was blended into the soil. This year he then used 4 oz. per container of SoilBiotics **Organic 5r – Soil Boost EA** blended into the soil as well. Then, as tomatoes were transplanted, 4 oz. of SoilBiotics **eFISHnt** blended with 5 gallons of water was used to soak the soil of all containers.

At 30-days post-transplant all foliage was soaked with 4 oz. SoilBiotics **CAL-10** and 4 oz. **3r – Growth Boost** blended with 1 gallon water and sprayed with hand-held sprayer. Blossoms and foliage were then sprayed with Ferti-Lome's cytokinin-based tomato/pepper set.

**50-DAY PICTURES ON FOLLOWING PAGES**

**All plants shown are at 50 days post-transplant (4" in height at transplant). We will try to update and replace photos as the season progresses.**

**Early Girl** indeterminate tomato. Previous years plant was at 4' in height at this point. The green fence post holding the cage is a 5' post, the wooden support is approximately 6' tall. Estimated plant height is 6'. The plant has started to yield 2.5" diameter ripe fruit, about a week earlier than in the past. And it is loaded. Bring on the fresh mozzarella and basil!





**Rutgers** heirloom determinate tomato. Expected final height is 4-5' at 70 days. 50-day height is 4' this year vs. 3' last year and the plant is loaded with fruit and more blossoms.



**Summer Set** semi-determinate hybrid tomato. Expected height is 4-6' at 78 days. This year the plant is at nearly 5' vs. 3.5' last year and fruit is heavy and growing rapidly. This 78-day variety is looking like it will start providing ripe fruit inside the next two weeks, much earlier than in the past. And these are my burger tomatoes!

**BONUS PLANT!** Decided to try a new pepper this year. Japanese Shisito pepper. Supposed to be like a sweet banana pepper, but some say that one in ten can decide to play spicy, so we'll see. Got the same program as the tomatoes. Look at the center and you can see that the plant is just loaded.



## UPDATE PHOTOS 8/3/2016

The **Early Girl** (in the back corner) at 70 days has cleared 7' in height, heavy fruit yield of 4-5 tomatoes of 2-3" diameter daily.



The **Rutgers** has set huge amounts of fruit; so much so that it is now tied off to the Early Girl and both plants bungee-corded to the deck railing to prevent them from collapsing. Yielding good size 2-3" diameter fruit daily. The neighbors are going to be getting some tomatoes.



The **Summer Set** has stopped gaining height and put all its effort into the fruit. Getting very nice 3-4" diameter fruit; perfect for the burgers!





The Shisito Pepper has well over 100 fruit growing and more blooms coming. We've harvested dozens so far and they are delicious in salads. Smaller than a banana pepper with super thin walls and few seeds. Got a recipe off the web for sautéing in olive oil whole with stems, and dipping in a thinned-out garlic/buffalo sauce to eat like artichokes, complete with seeds. Better than any restaurant appetizer ever!

