

## **Flora-Dade Tomato, Wide Adaptability and Salt Tolerance**

by Larry Saltee, President

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Flora-Dade Tomato : Fla.Agric.Expt.Sta.circ S-246 1976

Walter X Fla. 2153

As Seed and Light International has developed seed sets of productive open pollinated or non-hybrid vegetables for various climates of the world, the selections in many cases include our most successful determinate or bush tomato Flora-Dade ( Floradade).

Originally introduced as a mid-sized commercial production tomato by the University of Florida for the hot humid disease prone area of Dade County Florida in the Southeastern USA, it quickly became a favorite in many climates. Flora-Dade tomato is still considered because of its vigor, strong disease resistance and early crop production.

Photos of the plants in diverse climates may be seen on our web page:

[www.seedandlightinternational.org](http://www.seedandlightinternational.org)

Flora-Dade carries disease resistance to:

Verticillium wilt race 1

Fusarium wilt race 1&2

Alternaria stem canker

Stemphylium gray leaf spot

In addition research has listed Flora-Dade as resistant to Gray Wall and Blossom end rot. Our own observations suspect a resistance or at least a tolerance to soil Nematodes, Bacterial Speck and Soft Fruit Rot.

<http://plantclinic.cornell.edu/FactSheets/blossomrot/blossomrot.htm>

Recent studies in Syria and Egypt have clearly shown Flora-Dade to be salt tolerant and we feel this could be a greater importance in Central Asia, and the Americas. This report can be viewed at:

<http://www.nerc-wallingford.ac.uk/research/cairoworkshop/papers/Ragab.pdf>

Seed and Light International has been using Flora-Dade Tomato in such diverse climates as; West Africa (Liberia and Senegal), East Africa (Ethiopia and Sudan) , Central Africa (Uganda), Southern Africa (Zimbabwe) Central Asia, Honduras and Mexico. Fruit production commences 70 to 77 days from a four week transplant in most areas. The plant is a determinate or bush requiring some support as the fruit begins to set. Under most circumstances, the foliage protects the fruit from sun scald with only a little additional attention. Annual seed saving from this tomato cultivar has produced several generations in many of our projects.

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