Notice of Release of ‘Summit’ Tomato

‘Summit’ is a late-season, determinate, fresh market tomato developed at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station, Mills River, NC. ‘Summit’ is adapted to ground and stake culture for mature-green and vine-ripe harvest.

‘Summit’ is an F₇ selection from the cross of NC 50-7 x NC 76-1-47-1W (see pedigree, Figure 1). NC 50-7, derived from the four-way cross ['Blazer' F₁ x ('Walter' x 'Flora-Dade') F₁], was released in 1981 as a male parent of the F₁ hybrid ‘Mountain Pride.’ NC 76-1-47-1W was derived from the cross of ‘Walter’ x ‘Flora-Dade.’

‘Summit’ has determinate growth habit (sp gene). When it is staked and pruned, it is taller than ‘Flora-Dade’ and similar to ‘Mountain Pride.’ Non-pruned plants in ground culture are similar to ‘Flora-Dade,’ but somewhat larger. Foliage is dark green and provided good fruit coverage.

Fruit of ‘Summit’ vary from round to slightly elongated-round in shape, resembling ‘Flora-Dade,’ but are more symmetrical. Fruit have dark green shoulder character with an attractive, glossy finish. Fruit pedicels are jointless (j-2 gene).

‘Summit’ has shown more fruit cracking than ‘Mountain Pride,’ but it is equivalent to or less in cracking than ‘Flora-Dade.’ Blossom scar smoothness is comparable to ‘Flora-Dade’ and ‘Mountain Pride.’ ‘Summit’ has been free of the genetic disorders of fruit pox and gold fleck and resists gray wall, blossom end rot, puffiness and angularity.

In numerous field trials, ‘Summit’ has been equivalent to or superior to ‘Flora-Dade’ in fruit appearance, internal fruit color, flavor, fruit size, total yield and marketable yield. ‘Summit’ has been up to a week later in maturing than ‘Flora-Dade’ and is classified as a late-season cultivar.

‘Summit’ has resistance to verticillium wilt (Ve gene) and I and I-2 genes for resistance to races 1 and 2 of fusarium wilt.
Seed of ‘Summit’ tomato are available by contacting Dr. Randy Gardner or Dr. Dilip Panthee, Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center, 455 Research Drive, Mills River, NC 28759 or by telephone: 828.684.3562; fax: 828.684.8715; email addresses: randy_gardner@ncsu.edu or dilip_panthee@ncsu.edu. This variety is considered to be in the public domain for use by anyone without any restrictions.

Director, North Carolina Agricultural Research Service

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Date
Fig. 1. Pedigree of 'Summit' tomato.