

Processing Tomatoes

Effects of Converted Organics™ LC in Combination with UN32 on Processing Tomatoes

In 2004, with a crop value of \$618 million dollars,



processing tomatoes in California ranked number twelve out of seventy crops listed by value.¹ Additionally, California accounted for 95 percent of the area harvested for processing tomatoes in

the United States.² USDA national projections for 2007 anticipate a ten percent increase in production acres and an increased crop value estimate totaling \$806 million dollars. With such a large investment, growers are constantly looking for ways to improve crop yields and quality in addition to reducing the expenses and environmental effects associated with the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides while protecting the largest investment of all—their soil.

TRIAL BACKGROUND

This trial was conducted by Western Farm Service's technical staff in cooperation with a processing tomato grower near Five Points, California. Both **Converted Organics™ LC** and 4-0-9 were mixed with the same amount of UN32 prior to application and applied using the side dressing technique. All treatments were replicated six times on the same field lot.

Table 1. Trial Conditions

Converted Organics™ LC with UN32	
Products Tested	Converted Organics™ LC with UN32
Harvest Date	August 10, 2003
Crop	Processing Tomatoes
Irrigation Schedule	Flood irrigated
Planting Date	February, 2003
Application Date	May 12, 2003
Application Method	Side dress
Application Rate	7 gallons Converted Organics™ LC + 24 gallons UN32
	3 gallons 4-0-9 + 24 gallons UN32
	24 gallons UN32 (control area)
Treatment on Field	Replicated 6 times
Field Location	8 miles SW of Five Points, CA

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Two twenty foot row lengths were selected from north and south ends of each treatment plot. All red tomatoes were collected and weighed resulting in six readings per treatment. Average values are listed in table 2. Yield in tons per acre was calculated (table 2).

Table 2. Yield Results

Treatment	Yield* (lb/20 ft row)	Yield (ton/acre)
Converted Organics™ LC+UN32	259.0	51.28
4-0-9+UN32	243.7	48.47
UN32	246.3	48.77

*Average of 6 readings

TRIAL CONCLUSIONS

When conventional fertilizer was blended with 7 gallons of **Converted Organics™ LC**, crop yield increased 2.81 tons per acre over that of the areas treated with 4-0-9 and UN32. As a result, the net increased return to the grower would be approximately \$130.00 per acre. Visual observations of the **Converted Organics™ LC** treated area at harvest included increased vine vigor, less sunburn fruit, less leaf loss at harvest and a more developed root system (over that of other treated areas).

¹ California Agricultural Resources Directory, 2005

² Vegetables and Melons Outlook/VGS-308/April 21, 2005 Economic Research Service, USDA
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