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Tomato Wilt Tests In 1928

The continuation in 1928 of the studies of wilt resistance of several varieties of tomatoes by H. H. Wedgworth, Associate Plant Pathologist, again demonstrated that there is a marked difference in the susceptibility of these varieties to *Fusarium* wilt. Due to the fact that resistance to wilt is fast becoming the most important prerequisite for a successful tomato variety for Mississippi conditions, too much stress cannot be put upon selecting a good resistant variety best suited to a given locality.

During the past two years the Louisiana Red and the Louisiana Pink have ranked near the top in resistance to wilt and in yield of fruits. The Marglobe during 1924, 1925 and 1927 was a very outstanding variety, but in 1928 was quite susceptible to wilt and not as productive as in former years. No explanation can be given for its poor behavior in 1928. It is still to be considered, however, as one of the leading wilt-resistant varieties. The Marvana is an outstanding, early, wilt-resistant variety of the Earliana type. The Norton continues to be a good, medium late-season, resistant variety. The Marvel is one of the most resistant varieties, but is not quite as productive as some of the others. Some of the commercial varieties used in these tests have been advertised by seedsmen as wilt-resistant, but have proved to be very susceptible to wilt under the conditions of these experiments.

These tests have shown that some of the better wilt-resistant varieties are as productive even on wilt-free soil as some of the best commercial non-resistant varieties. The tests have also shown that there is a marked difference in the susceptibility of the various varieties to blossom-end rot and "cat faces". A detailed discussion of wilt and blossom-end rot of the tomato, together with the results of experiments conducted during previous years on these diseases, is given in Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 247, while the detailed results of the 1928 tests have been published in Mississippi Experiment Station Bulletin 261, both of which may be secured by writing the Station at A. & M. College.