

# North American Tomato challenges and solutions.

Michael Bledsoe, Ph.D.

Village Farms

[mebledsoe@villagefarms.com](mailto:mebledsoe@villagefarms.com)

407-493-3933 US Cell



- Ph.D. Entomology University of Florida
  - Minor Plant Pathology
- 22 years with Chevron and Valent USA
  - Field Research and Regulatory
- 18+ years with Village Farms
- Married 43 years next week to Jan (Back of the room)
- Live in Orlando Florida area.
- Chair IR-4 CLC and GH representative in Canadian PMC minor use programs.

# Mike Bledsoe

---

Good for the earth. Garden fresh flavor.



Greenhouse Grown



## Overview of VF Capabilities 2016

Good for the Earth®

[www.villagefarms.com](http://www.villagefarms.com)

## We are the Leader in hydroponic Greenhouse Grown produce in North America

- Largest greenhouse producer in North America
- Fresh vine ripened tomatoes, bell peppers & cucumbers
- 2016 marks our 27<sup>th</sup> Year of Operations
- Grower and Marketer of Exclusive Tomato Varieties
- Vertically integrated grower, marketer, shipper with year-round direct capabilities
- Strong reputation as the industry leader in quality, service and food safety
- Primus Global Food Safety certified
- Public company listed on Toronto Stock Exchange TSX:VFF

## Highly Sustainable

- “Local” grower
- Small carbon and physical footprint
- State-of-the-art environmentally friendly solutions and high-tech sustainable controlled environment

## Operating in Canada, US & Mexico

- Greenhouse facilities owned by VF - BC (110 acres), TX (130 acres)
- Extreme climate proprietary technology 30-acre GATES® greenhouse
- Four distribution centers in US and CA
- Exclusive marketing arrangements with US, Mexican, Canadian growers



# Good for the earth™



70%  
less land

- Soiless growing preserves precious land resources
- 20-30x Higher Yields pre acre
- 50 acre Greenhouse can produce same as 1500 acre Farm
- Plant roots are supported by recycled coconut fiber husks

86%  
less water



- In hydroponics plant roots are in nutrient rich water
- Water is re-circulated up to five times in the greenhouse
- 100% of water reaches the plant roots
- We use 86% less water than the average tomato grown outdoors

less  
chemicals



- Beneficial insects are used to control pests
- Leading to more use of Biological chemical Products.
- Integrated Pest Management



a significant  
reduction  
in CO<sub>2</sub>

- We recycle CO<sub>2</sub> from our heat boiler into the greenhouse
- Plants use CO<sub>2</sub> in the process of photosynthesis
- CO<sub>2</sub> is converted into oxygen

happy & healthy



Village Farms delivers safe and nutritious produce grown for a healthy future and a happy planet



## VF Greenhouses

### British Columbia – 110 total acres

Production: March - November

- Tomatoes-on-the-vine
- Beefsteak tomatoes
- Grape tomatoes
- Campari tomatoes
- Cherry tomatoes
- Heirloom tomatoes
- Mini San Marzano tomatoes
- Specialty tomatoes

### Texas – 130 total acres

#### Marfa & Fort Davis – 100 acres

Production: Year Round

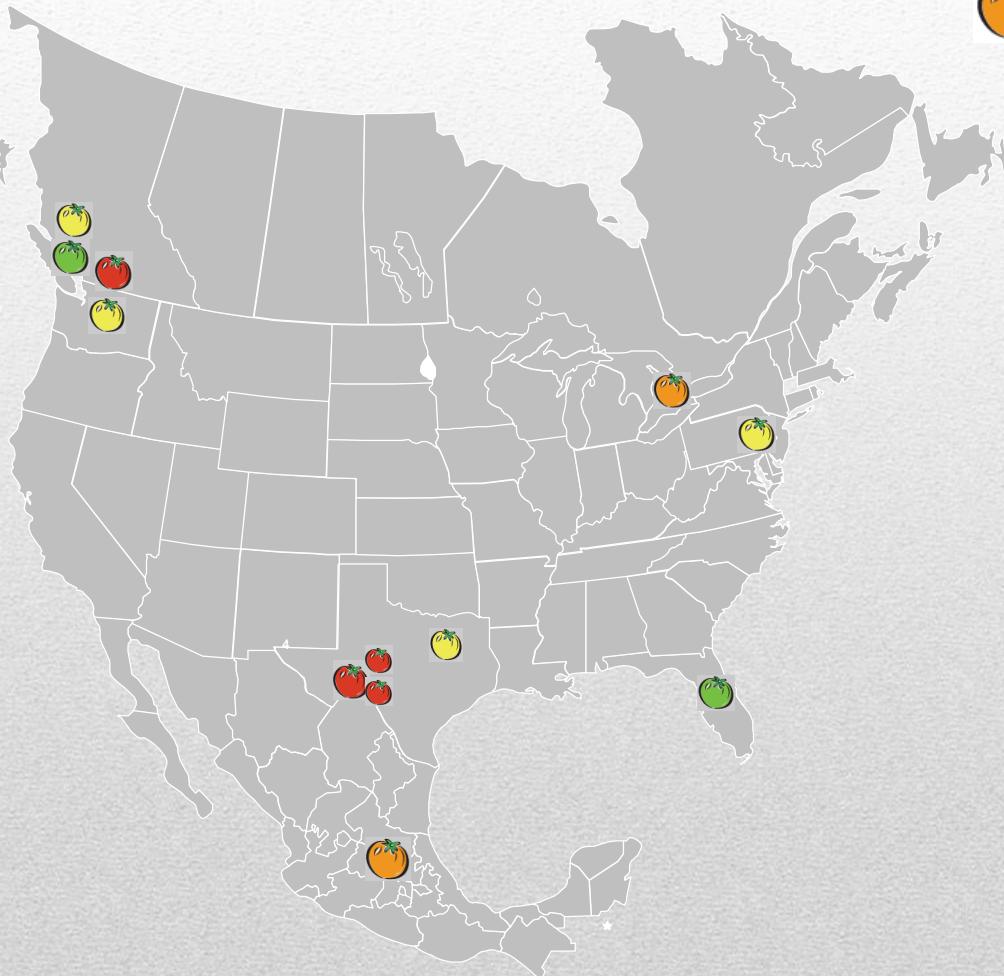
\*Beefsteak September – June

- Tomatoes-on-the-vine
- Beefsteak tomatoes\*
- Roma tomatoes
- Grape tomatoes
- Campari tomatoes
- Cherry tomatoes
- Heirloom tomatoes
- Mini San Marzano tomatoes
- Specialty tomatoes

### Permian Basin – 30 acres

Production: Year Round

- Tomatoes-on-the-vine
- Long English Cucumbers



## Partner Greenhouses

### Ontario - 70 total acres

Production: Year Round

- Tomatoes-on-the-Vine
- Mini San Marzano Tomatoes
- Campari Tomatoes

Production: March - November

- Sweet Bell Peppers
- Long English Cucumbers
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Grape Tomatoes
- Beefsteak Tomatoes
- Organic Beefsteak Tomatoes
- Organic Campari Tomatoes

### Mexico - 50 total acres

Production: Year round

- Tomatoes-on-the-Vine
- Beefsteak Tomatoes
- Grape Tomatoes
- Campari Tomatoes
- Mini San Marzano Tomatoes
- Specialties
- Mini Cucumbers
- Roma Tomatoes
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Long English Cucumbers



VF Greenhouse



Partner Greenhouse



Distribution Center



Corporate Office



Greenhouse Grown

## Branded Premium Quality Products

### **Heavenly Villagio Marzano®**

- 10oz, 1lb or 1.5lb zip handle pouch
- 10oz or 2lb clamshell
- 12oz tray or 1.5lb bowl topseal

### **Sinfully Sweet Campari®**

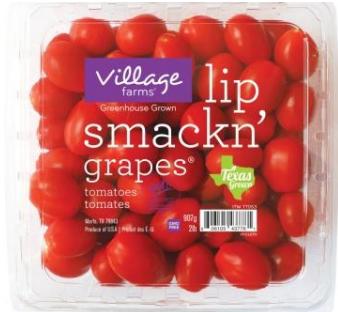
- 1lb or 2lb clamshell

### **Delectable TOV®**

- bulk 11lb box
- 1.5lb poly bag
- netted bag
- 2lb clamshell
- 4lb or 5lb box

### **Lip-Smackin Grapes®**

- 10oz or 2lb clamshell
- 10oz zip handle pouch
- 11lb box
- 500g bowl



### **Juicy Beefsteak®**

- 3lb or 6ct clamshell
- bulk 15lb box
- 5lb box

### **Savory Roma®**

- 1.1lb, 2lb, or 3lb clamshell

### **Baby Beefs®**

- 1lb or 1.25lb 4cnt clamshell

### **Mini Sensations®**

- 12oz netted bag
- 12oz clamshell





### Sweet Bells® Sweet Bell Peppers

- 1lb bulk Red, Yellow, or Orange
- 6cnt or 2lb bag R, R/Y/O, Y/O
- 3cnt Rainbow bag



### Scrumptious Mini® Cucumbers

- 1lb & 2lb handle bag
- 8 cnt tray/6 cnt tray / 1 lb tray

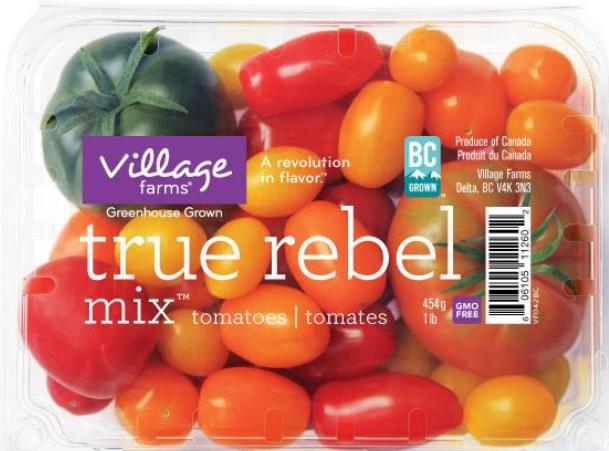


### Luscious Seedless Long English® Cucumbers

- 12, 16, 18, & 24 count box
- Single, 2 pack, 3 pack wrapped <sup>the Earth®</sup>



- Village Farms locally grown seals to support growing interest in locally sourced fruits and vegetables.
  - Texas
  - British Columbia
- All of Village Farms' varieties are grown using conventional growing methods.
- We are **GMO FREE** always



## 2016 Crop Availability by Region



# Texas

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Beefs	●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●	●
Cabernet	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Campari	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cherry no.9	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Grapes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Heirlooms	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
LE Cukes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Medley	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
MSM	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Roma	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
TOVs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Y/O TOVs	●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●	●

## Mexico

## **British Columbia**

Ontario



Nature friendly pioneers  
growing vine-ripened  
premium produce.

Village  
farms®

Greenhouse Grown

*We are Village Farms*

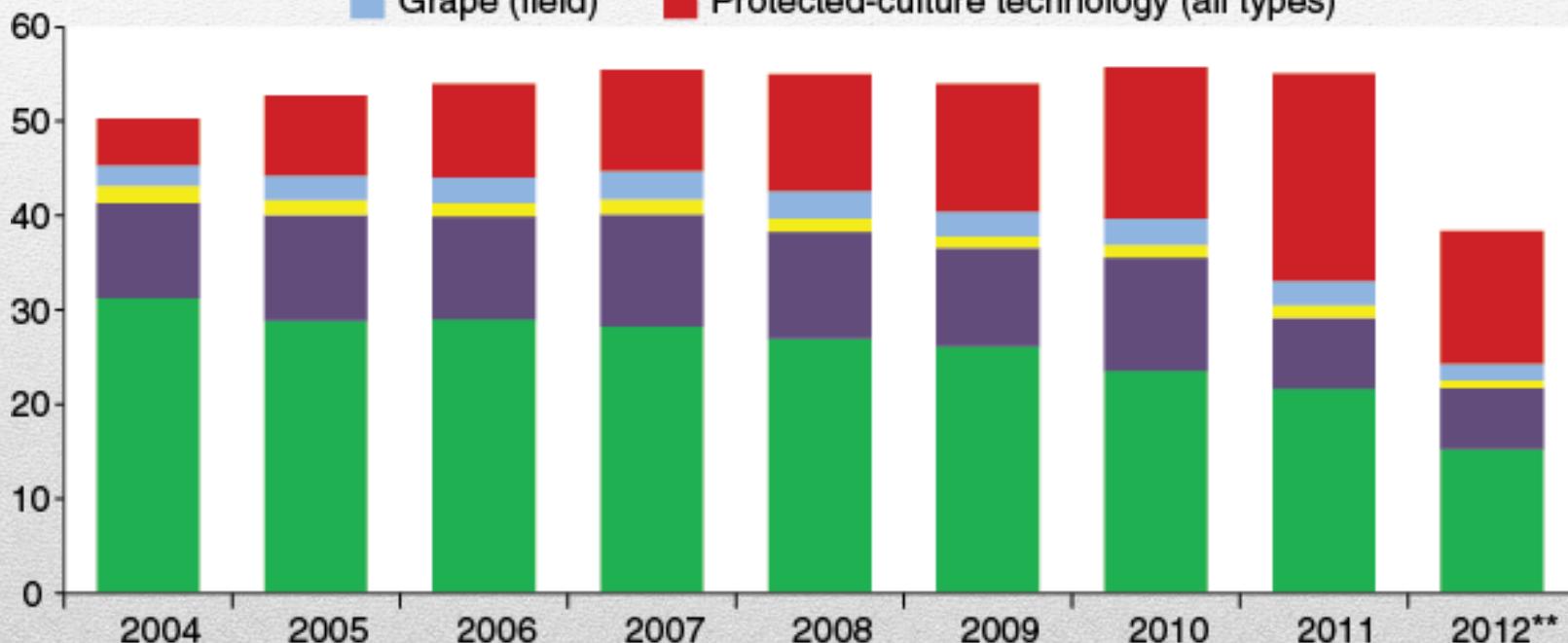
---



## Protected-culture tomato share of U.S. supply grows as the field share declines

Million pounds

Round (field) Plum (field) Cherry (field)  
Grape (field) Protected-culture technology (all types)\*



\* Includes beefsteak, tomatoes-on-the-vine (TOV), cherry, grape, and plum.

\*\* 2012 data cover January through September only.

Good for  
the Earth®

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.  
[www.villagefarms.com](http://www.villagefarms.com)

# **Registration and why Minor Use**

---

## • Largescale GH challenges

- Pre-Harvest Interval(PHI) Field: (7,14,21,28,32 day)
  - Needed 0-3 day PHI for GH tomato,
  - 0-1 for Cucumber.
- Many Basic Pesticide Manufacturers
  - Concerned over greenhouse use.
  - Generally, over protecting from resistance development
  - Very little return on risk.
- Monocrop
- 121 mile (1400 Km) rule (40 acre – 16 Ha)
  - Chemigation
  - Fogging
  - Dusting
  - Foliar

# 121 mile Rule (1400 Km)

---

## Tomato Disease:

- PepMV: Ch2 and US1 Strains
  - DCM PMV-01 (Belgium)
  - Valto V-10 (Dutch)
  - Not yet labeled in NA. Used in Europe under emergency registrations
- Agrobacterium rhizogenes (Crazy Root)
  - Alters plant energy sink
  - Circulates in water
- Pythium
- Botrytis
- PM
- Fusarium/ Phytophthora
- TYLCV
- Clavibacter (on decline in most NA areas)
  - GSPP - Good Seed and Plant Practices
  - Except Michigan (Leamington) -Cmm
  - Areas in Mexico and Central America



# Pest Challenges in NA

## Tomato Insect

- Psyllids (Bactericera cockerelli)
  - 0 tolerance
  - Symptoms similar to Bushy Stunt Virus
  - *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*
    - Zebra stripe in potatoes
- Whitefly
  - Arbovirus transmission
- Leps (Worms)
  - Periodic problem
- Miridae (Plant Bug)
  - Engy Bug:
    - *Engytatus modestus*
- Aphids



# Pest Challenges in NA

## **Seed Testing Program for Village Farms**

- Started in 2007
  - 2000 Tomato Seeds from each lot
  - 500 Cucumber Seeds from each lot
- Initially due to Cmm and PepMV on Tomatoes
- 8 positives since start (Cmm and PepMV)
- Expanded in 2012 to include
  - Additional pathogens and began Cucumber seed testing due to CGMMV.

## **Seed Testing Prior to Propagation Program**

---

Pathogen	Symbol
Clavibacter (Bacterial Canker)	Cmm
Pepino Mosaic virus	PepMV
Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid	PSTVd
Columnea Latent Viroid	CLVd
Ralstonia	
Agrobacterium rhizogenes	Crazy root

# Seed Testing Prior to Propagation

---

# Cucumber Seed Testing Program - 500 seeds

Pathogen	Symbol
Cucumber mosaic virus	CMV
Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus	CGMMV
Melon necrotic spot virus	MNSV
Tobacco mosaic virus	TMV
Tomato mosaic virus	ToMV
Zucchini yellow mosaic virus	ZYMU
Squash Mosaic Virus	SqMV
Agrobacterium rhizogenes	Crazy Root
Acidovorax avenae subsp. citrulli	BFB (Seedling PCR)

# Seed Testing Prior to Propagation

---

**Appendix 1: Agrichemicals currently registered for greenhouse tomato<sup>2</sup>**

Trade name	Active/ BCA	Control claim	
<b>Insecticides</b>			
Apostle™, Avid®, Hortcare® Abamectin .Invert EW, Vantal®, Verdex® 18EC	Abamectin	Two-spotted mite, tomato russet mite	Abba, Abacus, Epi-Mek,
Admiral® and Relent®	Pyriproxyfen	Whitefly	Distance, Knac
Applaud™, Exalt™, Mortar™, Ovation® 50WDG, Pilan® 500SC	Buprofezin	Greenhouse whitefly	Talus IGR
Attack®	Pirimiphos-methyl and Pemethrin	Aphids, caterpillars, whitefly	
Biobit® DF, Delfin® WG, Dipel® DF, Dipel® ES, Hortcare Bactur® 48LC, Hortcare Bactur® WDG	Bacillus thuringiensis	Tomato fruitworm	Fulfill
Bravium® and Chess® WG	Pymetrozine	Aphids and Whitefly	Lannate
Lannate® L	Methomyl	Whitefly	Azadirachtin
Neem 600WP	Neem seed kernel	Greenhouse Whitefly and aphid control	
Oberon®	Spiromesifen	Greenhouse whitefly	
Transform Insecticide	Sulfoxaflor Dow	Aphids and greenhouse white fly	
<b>Biological Control Agents</b>			
Aphidius, Aphipar™	Parasitic wasps (Aphidius colemani)	Aphids	
En-Force	Parasitic wasps (Encarsia Formosa)	Greenhouse whitefly	
Hypo-Mite™	Predatory mite - Hypoaspis (Gaeolealaps) aculeifer	sciarid fly (fungus gnat), pupae of some thrips and other soil dwelling collembola and nematodes	
Mite-A, Thripex	Thrip Predators (Neoseiulus cucumeris)	Thrips	
Mite-E, Spidex	Two-Spotted Mite Predator (Phytoseiulus persimilis)	Two-spotted mite	
<b>Fungicides</b>			
Addstern, Agpro Carbendazim, Chief®, Goldazim® 500 SC, Mbc 500 FLO, Mbc 800 WDG, Mycotak®, Prolific®, Protek®, Sporeguard, X-Spore	Carbendazim	Botrytis	Rovral- no NA tomato label
Defence™ 500, Ippon® 500 SC, Rapid™ 500, Rovral® Ro, Rovral® Gold, Rovral® WP	Iprodione		
Scomrid™ Limb Aerosol	Azaconazole and imazalil		
Taratek™ 5F	Chlorothalonil and Thiophanate methyl		
Topsin M-4A	thiophanate-methyl		
Luna Privilege*	Fluopyram	Botrytis	CA Fall US Luna Traquility +Pyrimethanil

\*Soon to be registered under SFF project ~Q1 2016

## **Products and ideas to consider**

- IR-4 GLP Residue available
- PMC Data available (Possibility)
- Continue to have a presence like: Nikki Johnson
  - Now with NZ Fruit Kiwifruit growers.
- Canada and USA share back and forth.
  - 4 trials on Greenhouse Vegetables
    - 3 large fruit (tomato)
    - 1 less than 2" (tomato)
- Neo-nics,
- Neo-nics like materials:
  - Bayer: Silvanto 200 SL - flupyradifurone
  - Nisso: Tristar, Assail - acetamiprid
- Fungicides: Switch, Pristine/Pageant, Previcur Flex

# **Products and Process**

---

## **Tomato Pesticide Use Guide for Greenhouse Applications**

**OF THE LABEL FOR USE AND FINAL MIXING DIRECTIONS SINCE LABELS PERIODICALLY**

Not on label but may works

## Listed on Label

# CONTROLS

## **CONTROLS**



[mebledsoe@villagefarms.com](mailto:mebledsoe@villagefarms.com)

407-493-3933 US Cell

# Questions?

---