

“Vegetable special” - A boost for tomato¹

Vegetable Special - a micro nutrient mixture developed by the Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR), Bengaluru enhances tomato production leading to an additional income of Rs. 20,000/- per acre, says an official communique from IIHR.

The new product ‘**Vegetable Special**’ contains micronutrients which increases fruit set, size, colour and shininess of tomato. Farmers can reap the benefits by additional production of 10 tons per acre by spending ₹1000-1500/acre.

Tomato is being grown over 2000 acres of Bengaluru Rural District and surrounding areas where soils are deficient in micronutrients like Zinc, Boron and Iron. The farmers are using only major nutrients (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium), and are unaware of the role of micronutrients. Therefore, they are getting lesser profit due to reduced yield and harvesting low quality fruits with less preference in the market. **This is where ‘Vegetable Special’ can come to the rescue of tomato growers.** It contains micronutrients such as Zinc, Iron, Boron, Copper and Manganese and is best used as foliar spray in tomato crop.

The following four step process can be used to develop the foliar spray solution:

1. For every 15 liters of water, mix 75 g of Vegetable Special (Powder)
2. Add two fresh lemon juice to neutralize the spray solution
3. Add one shampoo sachet that acts as surfactant
4. Mix thoroughly to get a homogenous solution

Three sprays are advocated during the crop period, first spray at one and half month after transplanting and the other two sprays at 15 days interval after the first spray. Foliar spray of Vegetable Special enhances vegetative growth, increases fruit set and fruit size, reduces incidence of pest and disease by imparting resistance to plant system and also helps in development of shininess to tomato.

The product (Vegetable Special) can be obtained from IIHR, Hesaraghatta Lake Post, Bangalore-560089 Ph: 080-28466353 ; 080-28466471 or contact - Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hadonahalli -561205, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District Ph: 080-27652082 / 27652093.

¹Group-I.

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