Project background

Oklahomans want locally grown fresh produce and tomato is one of those produce items that are a “must have” item for consumers within the state. One of the biggest problems for tomato growers is fruit set which usually stops completely during the hotter periods of June and July. In 2011 and 2012, farmers had difficulty growing tomatoes for market due to the intense hot weather that was experienced. Farmers continue to request help with this ongoing problem. The objective of this study was to trial tomato varieties with heat-set capabilities and use plasticulture to manage soil temperature and moisture levels to determine if gains can be made in tomato yield during the hot months of summer. The Vegetable Trial Report with the study results from different sites is available from OSU at: http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/industry/vegetables/index.htm.