



# 3 Keys to Tomato Production, Flavor, & Marketability

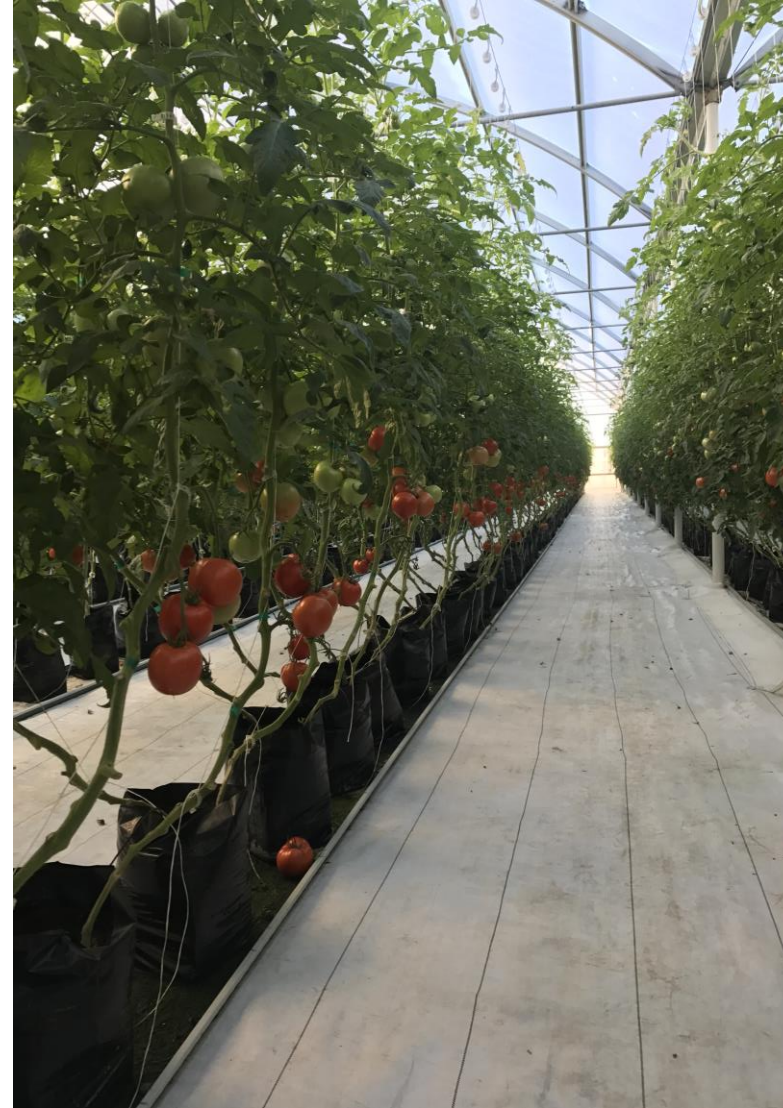
Highway 52 Produce

Versailles, Missouri

Chris Pifer

# Introduction

- ▶ Chris Pifer (573) 539-5566
- ▶ Thank you to K State for invitation!
- ▶ Started in December 2011
- ▶ Roofing company prior

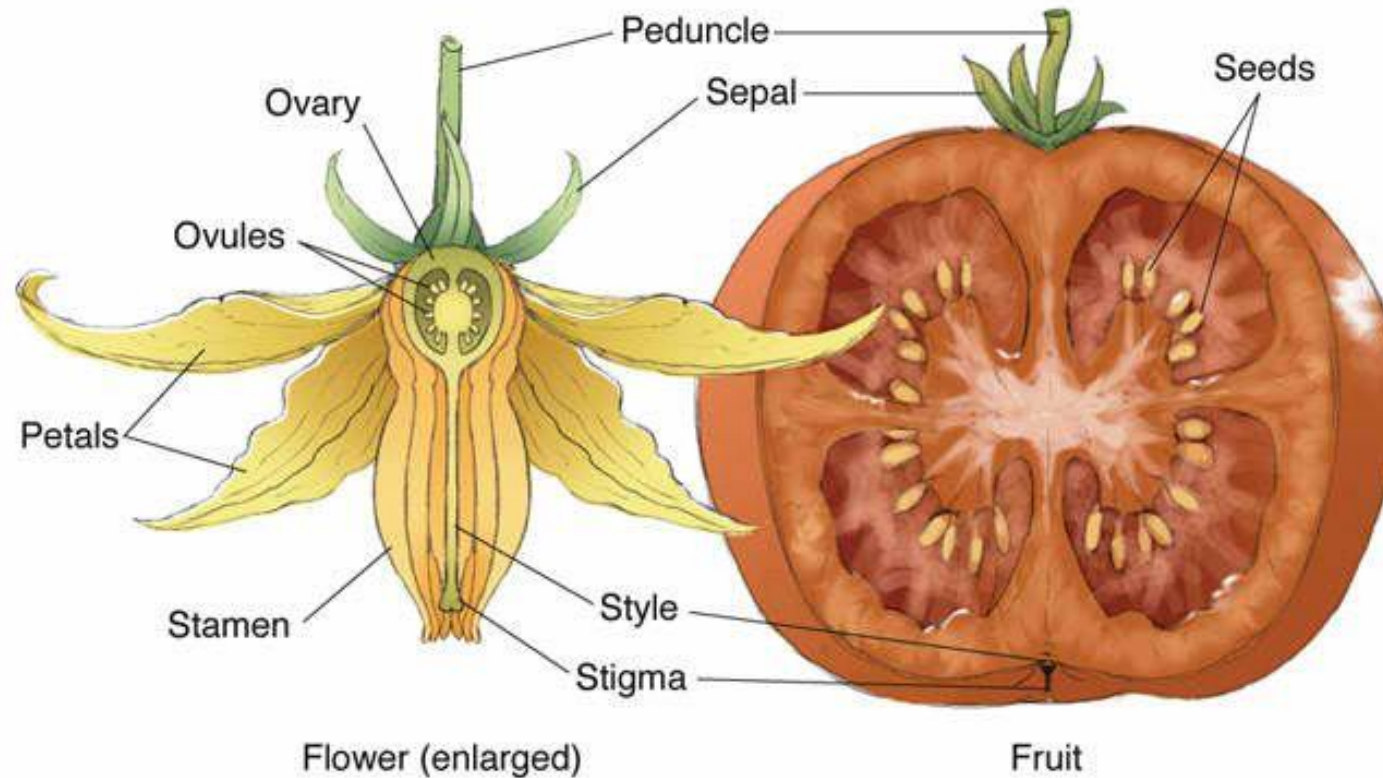


## 3 Keys to Production, Flavor, and Marketability of Fruit

1. **POLLINATION!**
2. **POLLINATION!**
3. **POLLINATION!**

# Essence of Pollination

- ▶ Transfer pollen from the anther in the stamen (male parts), along the stigma and style to the ovary (female parts).
- ▶ Timing!



# Preparing Your Greenhouse for Optimal Pollination

- ▶ Pay attention to these 3 factors.
  - ▶ Sunlight: Watch the weather!
  - ▶ Humidity: Timing air transfer according to the weather for the day.
  - ▶ Temperature: Increasing temperature on dank, cloudy days along with air transfer.

# Types of Pollination

1. Bees
2. Hand pollination
3. Blower pollination
4. Shaking



# Unpollinated Blossom



# Pollinated Blossom







## Production, Flavor, & Marketability

- ▶ The more thorough the pollination, the more shapely and sizable the fruit.
- ▶ The more thorough the pollination, the greater the flavor by increasing seed count.
- ▶ The more shapely and sizable the fruit, the more marketable.

# Improper Pollination





# Proper Pollination



# Cluster Pruning- An Act of Mental Discipline

- ▶ Cluster pruning according to:
  - ▶ length of growing season,
  - ▶ market, &
  - ▶ type of tomato plant.



# Early Cluster Pruning Examples



## Early Cluster Pruning Examples Cont.





## Early Cluster Pruning Examples Cont.



## Other Early Cluster Pruning Examples





## Other Early Cluster Pruning Examples





## Other Early Cluster Pruning Examples



# Late Cluster Pruning Examples



# Late Cluster Pruning Examples





# Late Cluster Pruning Examples



# Late Cluster Pruning Examples





# Improper Cluster Pruning Example



# Abortion Due To Plant Overload Example





# Desired Outcome Example



# Data Collection

- ▶ Beware of absolutes!!
- ▶ Experiment with your own crop.
- ▶ Think outside the box in measured, calculated ways.
- ▶ Your data is the best and most accurate data for you!

# Unpollinated Blossom Abortion Example





## Going Forward. . .

- ▶ Move pollination to the forefront of our thinking!
- ▶ Understand how to manipulate clusters to create consistent, sizeable, shapely fruit.
- ▶ Last, but not least, turn your greenhouse into a research facility. Your data is the most accurate, most reliable, and most productive data you can get.

Take a minute every day to  
bask in how privileged we  
are to be participating in  
such a great miracle!

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# Questions

