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**EFFECT OF AGE OF TOMATO SEEDLINGS AT TIME OF
INOCULATION WITH *ROTYLENCHULUS RENIFORMIS* ON
GROWTH AND CHANGES IN PHENOLICS IN PLANTS AND
REPRODUCTION OF THE NEMATODE**

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Abstract

When tomato seedlings 1, 2, 3 and 4 week old were inoculated with *Rotylenchulus reniformis*, the greatest reduction in growth was observed in the youngest seedlings and the least in the oldest. Repeated sampling showed that the number of *Rotylenchulus reniformis* increased most in the seedlings that were the youngest at the time of inoculation. These seedlings also contained the lowest concentration of phenolics. Inoculation with *R. reniformis* resulted in a marked increase in the concentration of phenolics and as the time interval after inoculation was increased, so the concentration of phenolics also increased.