

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INITIAL POPULATION DENSITIES
OF *MELOIDOGYNE INCOGNITA* RACE 1 AND GROWTH
AND YIELD OF TOMATO**

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Abstract

The effect of seven different initial population densities (P_i) of *Meloidogyne incognita* Race 1 on the growth and yield of tomato, *Lycopersicon esculentum* cv., Enterpriser, were studied under greenhouse and field conditions. A progressive decline in the growth and yield was observed with the increasing nematode population. Nematode population in soil both at midseason and harvest time increased except at the highest population density where it was lower than the initial population. An Economic loss threshold of 10.6% was determined and this occurred at a pre-plant population of 1,000 to 2,000 larvae/kg soil indicating that a nematode population higher than 1,000 larvae/kg soil may require control depending on the soil type, economic and environmental conditions.