

ADULT TOMATO TRANSPLANTS TO ADVANCE HARVEST

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The growth and flowering rates of tomato plants from adult transplants were compared with those from normal seedlings.

The adult transplants were bearing two inflorescences (some of the flowers already set fruits) at transplantation.

In order to prevent etiolation in the nursery, the growth of the transplants was restricted either by shaking or by paclobutrazol.

After transplantation the growth rate of the plants which had received shaking was faster than of the control, while the growth rate of the paclobutrazol-treated plants was slowest. The

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paclobutrazol-treated plants, however, were the most uniform and exhibited the smallest differences between the longest and the shortest plants in each treatment.

The presence of the inflorescences did not affect root development.

Fruits ripened on the plants developed from adult transplants much earlier than on those from normal seedlings.

These results indicate that using adult transplants can be useful means for obtaining earlier tomato fruits.