

# Sustainability



California Tomato Farmers members are proud to grow environmentally-friendly tomatoes.

## “Green” For Over 20 Years

Over 20 years ago, long before “going green” and “sustainability” became popular corporate buzzwords, the members of what is now California Tomato Farmers made a commitment to the development of production strategies based on Low Input Sustainable Agriculture (LISA). Collaborating with world-class researchers from the University of California, Davis, California Tomato Farmers members have field-tested and adopted new growing technologies that promote sustainability from field to market.

The members farm over 20,000 acres, in small parcels from San Diego County to Sacramento County. They do not farm in the Salinas Valley. For many of these farmers, this is farmland that has been in their families for years. With urban encroachment becoming a challenge for California agriculture, it's important that the remaining farmland continue to be productive. This is why members employ a number of sustainable farming practices — practices that are good for the farmer, the environment, and the workers.



### Cover Crops

- Improves soil health
- Controls weed populations
- Improves water balance in a drought-prone environment
- Reduces emissions of greenhouse gases such as CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O

### Conservation Tillage

- Maintains soil organic matter (SOM)
- Reduces dust generation
- Reduces wind-related soil erosion
- Earthworm populations increase and improve soil fertility

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## Drip Irrigation

- Reduces water waste/use
- Reduces herbicide use
- Reduces aerial pesticide applications
- Avoids water run-off



## Integrated Pest Management

- Utilizes pest monitoring, traps, mulches, predatory insects, pheromones, and bacteria
- Minimizes the use of toxic/synthetic pesticides (reduced 50%)
- Balances crop risk with environmental impact

## Social Accountability

- Provides fair treatment, competitive wages, equal opportunity, and safe working conditions for all employees
- Utilizes Spray Safe program, which minimizes risk of pesticide drift to farm workers

