

## **Breeding for High Temperature Fruit Set in Processing Tomato**

Steven H. Schroeder, Nunhems USA, Inc., Lodi, California

In processing tomato, yield is one of the most important objectives for plant breeders. Under high temperature conditions, fruit set is reduced and the fruit that develop are often parthenocarpic, very small, and not acceptable for processing. At Nunhems, we found a location in Spain that has consistent high temperatures during flowering and yields are often drastically reduced. A breeding nursery was set up and selection in this environment has been ongoing for more than 10 years. Progress from selection was rapid in the beginning years, but slower over the last few years. Factors that influence high temperature set and progress from selection are discussed.