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1 Contrasting processing tomato cultivars unlink yield and pollen viability
2 under heat stress

3 Running title: The response of processing tomato cultivars to heat stress

4

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15

16

17 Abstract:

18 The occurring climate change is causing temperature increment in crop production
19 areas worldwide, generating conditions of heat stress that negatively affect crop
20 productivity. Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), a major vegetable crop, is highly
21 susceptible to conditions of heat stress. When tomato plants are exposed to ambient
22 day/night temperatures that exceed 32°C/20°C respectively during the reproductive
23 phase, fruit set and fruit weight are reduced, leading to a significant decrease in yield.
24 Processing tomato cultivars are cultivated in open fields, where environmental
25 conditions are not controlled, therefore plants are exposed to multiple abiotic stresses,
26 including heat stress. Understanding the physiological response of modern processing
27 tomato cultivars to heat stress may facilitate the development of thermotolerant
28 cultivars. Here, we compared two tomato processing cultivars, H4107 and H9780, that
29 we found to be constantly differing in yield performance. Using field and temperature-
30 controlled greenhouse experiments, we show that the observed difference in yield is
31 attributed to the occurrence of heat stress conditions. In addition, fruit-set and seed
32 production were significantly improved in the thermotolerant cultivar H4107,
33 compared with H9780. Despite the general acceptance of pollen viability as a measure
34 of thermotolerance, there was no difference in the percentage of viable pollen between
35 H4107 and H9780 under either of the conditions tested. Therefore, processing tomato
36 cultivars may present a particular case, in which other factors are central for heat stress
37 tolerance. Our results also demonstrate the value of combining controlled with
38 uncontrolled experimental settings, in order to identify heat stress related responses and
39 facilitate the development of thermotolerant processing tomato cultivars.

40 **Keywords: Heat Stress, Tomato, Yield, Processing cultivars, Pollen viability**

41 Introduction

42 Plant physiology and development are prominently affected by changes in ambient
43 temperatures. With the current global climate change, temperatures are gradually
44 shifting and temperature extremes occur more frequently. Predictions of the effect of
45 temperature increment on major crops yield show that each degree-Celsius increase in
46 global mean temperature would cause yield reduction by 3.1-7.4% on average (Zhao et
47 al. 2017). Recent IPCC reports estimate global warming is likely to reach a 1.5°C
48 increase in average surface temperature between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to

49 increase at the current rate, and reach a 2–4⁰C increase by the end of the twenty-first
50 century (IPCC, 2018), thus challenging crop productivity and food security. High
51 temperature is a major abiotic stress that disturbs basic molecular processes, such as
52 protein folding, photosynthesis and assimilates metabolism (Bokszczanin et al. 2013).
53 These effects cause morphological and physiological changes, negatively affecting
54 plant growth and development (Wahid et al. 2007; Bitá and Gerats 2013). Yield
55 reduction due to heat stress was documented in various crops such as cereals (wheat,
56 rice, barley, sorghum and maize), pulses (chickpea) and oil yielding crops (mustard,
57 canola) fruits and vegetables (potato, eggplant, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, onion,
58 cucumber, musk melon, watermelon and pumpkin) (Hasanuzzaman et al. 2013). When
59 heat stress occurs during the reproductive phase of plant development, the observed
60 consequences include morphological alterations of anthers, style elongation, bud
61 abscission and reduced fruit number, size and seed set. The development of pollen is
62 considered the most heat-sensitive stage (Lohani et al. 2020) as it was shown to be more
63 sensitive than both the sporophyte and female gametophyte tissues (Peet et al. 1998;
64 Young et al. 2004; Wang et al. 2019). Heat stress disrupts of meiotic cell division,
65 abnormal pollen morphology and size, and reduced grain number, viability, and
66 germination capacity (Endo et al. 2009; M. M. Peet et al. 1998; Djanaguiraman et al.
67 2013; Giorno et al. 2013; Pressman et al. 2002; Firon et al. 2006; Begcy et al. 2019;
68 Prasad et al. 2006). Specifically, pollen viability is considered a central element for heat
69 stress tolerance as high temperatures were shown to impair pollen viability in numerous
70 crop species such as wheat (Begcy et al. 2018), rice (Jagadish et al. 2007), sorghum
71 (Djanaguiraman et al. 2018), soybean (Djanaguiraman et al. 2013), and tomato (Firon
72 et al. 2006), leading to male sterility and reduced fruit/grain production.

73 Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), an important vegetable crop worldwide,
74 cultivated in a wide range of agro-climatic regions, is very sensitive to heat stress. The
75 tomato fruit set is optimal when the average day and night temperatures range between
76 21°C - 29°C and 18°C - 21°C, respectively (Pelzer 2008). Prolonged stress of day
77 temperatures exceeding 32°C with night temperature above 20°C cause reduced fruit
78 set, fruit weight, total yield and seed production (El Ahmadi and Stevens 1979; Peet et
79 al. 1998, Sato 2000; Firon 2006). In tomato, pollen heat stress related damage, exhibited
80 by morphological alterations and reduced pollen viability and germination rates, was
81 observed after short episodes of high temperatures at 40°C, or after chronic exposure
82 to milder heat stress of 31-32°C/25-28°C day/night for several months (Firon et al.

83 2006; Iwahori 1966; Giorno et al. 2013). The decrease in pollen viability and/or
84 germination was shown to cause a significant decrease in fruit set (Iwahori 1965;
85 Rudich et al. 1977; Abdul-Baki 1992; Sato et al. 2000), therefore pollen viability was
86 used as a screening approach to identify heat stress tolerant tomato genotypes.
87 Consequently, several tomato genotypes were identified, that maintain a higher level of
88 pollen viability under heat stress conditions (Dane et al. 1991; Paupière et al. 2017;
89 Driedonks et al. 2018). Pollen viability is therefore often used as a measure of
90 thermotolerance, establishing the correlation between pollen viability and fruit
91 (Pressman et al. 2002; Xu et al. 2017; Pham et al. 2020; Rutley et al. 2021; Firon et al.
92 2006).

93 In contrast to the wealth of data demonstrating the correlation between pollen
94 heat stress damage and fruit set, examples of heat stress tolerance/sensitivity not
95 correlated with pollen viability are very scarce. To the best of our knowledge, only two
96 such cases were described. Gonzalo *et al.* (2020) performed a population screen of
97 introgression lines from the wild species *Solanum pimpinellifolium* for reproductive
98 traits under controlled heat stress conditions, and no correlation was found between
99 pollen viability and fruit set (Gonzalo et al. 2020). In a more recent study, Ayenan et
100 al (2021) screened a collection of 42 cultivated and wild tomato genotypes with good
101 yield components under long term mild heat stress and did not find association between
102 the proportion of viable pollen and fruit set percentage (Ayenan et al., 2021). In this
103 paper, we present yet another example for heat stress tolerance that is not correlated
104 with pollen viability, in a processing cultivar of tomato.

105 Tomato processing cultivars are used by the food industry to produce tomato
106 paste and sauces, canned crushed, diced, or peeled tomatoes and various juices and
107 soups. For these purposes, breeding companies developed cultivars suited for
108 mechanical harvesting and canning processes. These cultivars are characterized by a
109 determinate growth habit, synchronized fruit set and firm flesh (Hanna 1971; Gould et
110 al. 1992), unlike the indeterminate fresh market cultivars, grown primarily in
111 greenhouses or other covered facilities. Processing tomato plants are cultivated only in
112 open fields, where heat stress conditions are prevalent. Particularly in the
113 Mediterranean basin, including the major tomato producers Italy and Spain, the
114 growing season starts in March–April, when the probability of high temperatures during
115 the sensitive reproductive stage is very high (<http://www.wptc.to>). However,
116 information regarding the response of processing cultivars to heat stress is very limited.

117 Here, we characterized the heat stress response of two processing tomato
118 cultivars, which are usually grown in open field conditions therefore exposed to a
119 combination of stress factors, including heat stress, during the reproductive stage. We
120 show that the constant difference in yield between these cultivars is attributed to high
121 temperature conditions. In order to gain information specifically for the response to
122 heat-stress, the same cultivars were tested in a controlled greenhouse, under heat stress
123 and control conditions in a parallel setup. This setup allows the identification of specific
124 heat stress related traits, which is not possible under the uncontrolled, multi-stress field
125 conditions. Our results demonstrate a clear difference in performance under heat stress,
126 which is, unexpectedly, not related to pollen viability.

127 **Materials and methods**

128 Plant material and growth conditions

129 Two tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) commercial processing cultivars H4107
130 and H9780 (Green Seeds Ltd.), were grown during 2018 in three different experimental
131 fields, in different locations as follows: 1. ‘Upper Galilee’ site, at the Northern part of
132 Israel (33°10'50.6"N latitude 35°34'49.6"E longitude; Field size 100 plants), 2. ‘Eden’
133 site (32°27'58.2"N latitude 35°29'12.2"E longitude; Field size 80 plants) and 3.
134 ‘Volcani’ site at a central region of Israel (31°59'34.6"N latitude 34°49'01.8"E
135 longitude; field size 40 plants). The two cultivars were grown in a completely
136 randomized design in 3-5 replicas (plots). Seeds were sown in germination trays and
137 transplanted in open fields after three weeks. Mature plants were maintained under
138 standard horticultural practices. During the whole growing period climatic data were
139 recorded using the weather stations ‘Khavat Eden’, ‘Beit Dagan’ and ‘Mop Tzafon’
140 located in Eden, Volcani and Upper Galilee fields, respectively. In addition, the two
141 cultivars were grown in climate controlled greenhouses at the Naan site of Evogene
142 LTD company. In this controlled experiment, four plants from each cultivar were grown
143 under moderate chronic heat stress (MCHS) conditions (32°C-22°C day-night, starting
144 at flowering) and control conditions (25°C-18°C day-night), in a randomized setup,
145 identical between the two rooms. The seeds were sown in germination trays and
146 transplanted into 10L pots filled with soil 21 days after sowing.

147 Reproductive traits evaluation

148 Fruit set and fruit production were evaluated in all three experimental fields and
149 in the controlled experiment. Fruit production (FW – fruit weight) was evaluated by
150 weighing total red-ripe fruits per repeat (plot or plant in the field or controlled
151 experiments, respectively). Fruit set ratio (FS) was evaluated from 10 randomly
152 selected inflorescences from each plot in the field experiments. In the controlled
153 experiment, FS was evaluated from three randomly selected inflorescences in 4
154 different plants (a total of 12 inflorescences per cultivar). Seed number per fruit (SN)
155 was examined by seeds extraction using three fruits from five plants (Volcani field) or
156 three fruits from five plots (Upper Galilee field). In the controlled experiment, 5-25
157 fruits from all four plants were sampled. Seeds were extracted using the sulfuric acid
158 method; the locular gel containing the seeds was extracted and soaked in 2% sulfuric
159 acid solution. After 3 hours, the seeds were transferred into a net bag and rinsed under
160 tap water. Seeds were then thoroughly dried in the open air for few days. Seed number
161 was calculated using the weighing method: a small portion was manually counted and
162 weighed, and then the total amount of seeds was estimated by weighing.

163 Pollen viability analysis

164 For pollen viability analysis, flowers at anthesis were collected in the morning
165 (7 to 10 am). In total, three flowers per plant were collected and three plants were used
166 per cultivar. Each anther was cut into two pieces and put in a 1.5 mL tube filled with
167 0.5mL germination solution [1 mM KNO₃, 3 mM Ca (NO₃)₂·4H₂O, 0.8 mM MgSO₄·7
168 H₂O, 1.6 mM H₃BO₃; (Pressman et al. 2002)], followed by 20 µl of Alexander dye. The
169 Alexander dye consisted of 20 ml of ethanol, 20 mg of malachite green, 50 ml of
170 distilled water, 40 ml of glycerol, 100mg of Acid fuchsin, 2 gr Phenol, and 2 ml of
171 Lactic acid for a 100 ml solution (Alexander 1980). Samples were observed under
172 Leica DMLB epi-fluorescence microscope (Germany) using BF filter, magnified by 10-
173 20. Three fields containing representative pollen pattern were captured with DS-Fi1
174 digital camera using NIS-Elements BR3.0 software (Nikon). Viable (purple) and non-
175 viable (blue-green) pollen grains were counted manually in ImageJ version 1.43
176 software using the 'Cell counter' plugin (Schneider et al. 2012).

177

178 Statistical analysis

179 One-way ANOVA was employed to identify significant differences ($p < 0.05$)
180 between the cultivars for each trait. When ANOVA identified significant differences
181 among genotypes, we used the student t-test method as an exact test for all differences

182 between means. These conservative procedures limited the probability of rejecting a
183 true null hypothesis to the desired ($p < 0.05$) level. All statistical analyses were
184 performed using JMP Version 3.2.2 (SAS Institute, Inc., Cary, N.C.).

185 Results

186 Consistent difference in yield between H4107 and H9780 across multiple years and 187 locations.

188 Following a survey of processing tomato field-testing data from 15 years
189 (between 2005 and 2019) across 17 different locations (Table S1), we detected a
190 consistent difference between two cultivars, i.e., H4107 and H9780. While the yield of
191 H4107 was always above the test average, the yield of H9780 was always lower than
192 the test average (Table S1). When we compared the results of specific years and
193 locations where both cultivars were tested simultaneously, the average yield was 12.4
194 and 10.8 k/m^2 for H4107 and H9780, respectively, providing a significant difference
195 (Figure 1a, b). We aimed to understand the source of this difference in order to promote
196 breeding efforts for high yield in field-grown processing tomato. Since the field
197 environment imposes various stresses to the plants, and tomato being particularly
198 sensitive to elevated temperatures, we set to test the possibility that the high temperature
199 conditions usually prevalent in those regions are causing the difference in yield.

200 The difference in yield between H4107 and H9780 is associated with high temperature 201 conditions.

202 To test whether the observed difference in yield between H4107 and H9780 is
203 due to their differential response to high temperature, we set field experiments in two
204 locations that are routinely used for processing tomato cultivation, however, differing
205 by their environmental conditions. The 'Upper Galilee' field is located in a region that
206 is characterized by hot days and cooler nights during the processing tomato season
207 (May-July), whereas the "Eden" field is located in the Jordan Valley which is
208 characterized by high day and night temperatures, and high humidity. For this reason,
209 planting in "Eden" starts earlier (February until May), to avoid extreme heat stress and
210 yield losses. In addition, we set a small experimental field at the Volcani Center, located
211 in a more temperate region. Overall, we tested the plants under field conditions in three
212 different environments. Environmental data were obtained for each field from a local
213 meteorological station, enabling recording temperature every 3 hours, hence we

214 calculated day and night average and maximum temperatures. Considering that tomato
215 plants experience heat stress when day temperature exceeds 32°C and night temperature
216 exceeds 20°C, our analysis shows that heat stress conditions were indeed prevalent in
217 all three locations, though with some differences (Figure 2a-d). In the Eden field, due
218 to the early planting, heat stress conditions developed around 50 days after flowering.
219 Nonetheless, day and night maximal temperatures surpassed threshold values already 5
220 days after flowering, generating heat stress conditions throughout the entire
221 reproductive period. In the Upper Galilee field, daily average temperatures were around
222 32°C, reaching a maximum of approximately 35°C in most days, including three
223 incidences of above 40°C. Night temperatures in the Upper Galilee field were higher
224 than 20°C throughout the period, reaching a maximum of over 30°C on several
225 occasions, presenting more severe heat stress than in the Eden field. Lower
226 temperatures were observed in the Volcani field, where the daily average was usually
227 under 32°C, with four exceptional heat waves. Night temperatures were still high
228 averaging around 25°C throughout the tested period, thus the plants in the Volcani field
229 also experienced heat stress conditions (Figure 2a-d). Under the above-described
230 conditions, we found that the yield of H4107 was significantly higher than that of
231 H9780 in all fields (Figure 2e), in agreement with our analysis of multiple years and
232 locations data (Figure 1). While H4107 produced 9.0, 6.9, and 11.0Kg fruit/m² in Upper
233 Galilee, Volcani, and Eden, respectively, H9780 produced 5.1, 3.3, and 8.0Kg fruit/m²
234 in the same respective fields. Moreover, yield levels in both cultivars were higher in
235 Eden than in the Upper Galilee and Volcani fields that experienced a more substantial
236 heat stress, suggesting that yield levels are indeed affected by the high temperatures in
237 these locations. The reproductive difference between H4107 and H9780 was further
238 demonstrated by testing fruit set ratio and seed production in the Upper Galilee and
239 Volcani fields (Figure 3). In these locations, H4107 reached 28% and 35% fruit set,
240 respectively, while H9780 had 17% fruit set in both locations (Figure 3a). Similarly,
241 H4107 produced a higher number of seeds per fruit versus H9780, reaching 244 and 96,
242 respectively, in the Upper Galilee field. In the Volcani field, H4107 had on average 61
243 seeds per fruit, and H9780 produced only 21 seeds per fruit on average, maintaining a
244 significant difference (Figure 3b).

245 In order to validate the effect of heat stress on the productivity of H4107 and
246 H9780, we set a controlled experiment in which the same cultivars were grown under

247 either MCHS (32°C/22°C day/night), or control conditions (25°C/18°C day/night) in
248 separate rooms. At the beginning of the experiment, both rooms were maintained under
249 control conditions. Once plants started to flower, MCHS was initiated in one room
250 while the other room was kept at control conditions throughout the rest of the plants
251 growth (Figure 4a). Fruit set rate and seed production were analyzed under both
252 conditions. We found no significant difference between H4107 and H9780 in both
253 parameters measured (i.e. 64-68% fruit set and 52-92 seeds per fruit) under control
254 conditions. However, under MCHS conditions, H4107 performed better than H9780,
255 as the fruit set was 36% versus 19% in H9780. Seed number per fruit was 71 and 23 for
256 H4107 and H9780, respectively (Figure 4b-c). Markedly, fruit set ratios were very
257 similar between field and controlled heat stress for both cultivars, supporting the
258 occurrence of heat stress conditions in the field experiments. Importantly, these results
259 confirm that the observed difference in yield and other reproductive traits under open
260 field conditions are due to high temperatures, and suggest that H4107 is more tolerant
261 than H9780 to heat stress.

262 The difference in heat tolerance between H4107 and H9780 is not related to pollen
263 viability.

264 Since pollen viability is widely recognized as a main parameter determining
265 plant heat stress tolerance (Dane et al. 1991; Paupière et al. 2017; Driedonks et al.
266 2018), we aimed to test whether the heat stress tolerance of H4107 can be at least
267 partially explained by higher degree of pollen viability under heat stress conditions. To
268 address that, we analyzed pollen viability percentage in field and controlled conditions.
269 In the Upper Galilee field, we found no significant difference between H4107 and
270 H9780, as both showed 60-70% viable pollen out of total pollen grains (Figure 5a).
271 Pollen viability was lower in the Volcani field (30-45%), yet still similar between the
272 cultivars (Figure 5b). In the controlled experiment, pollen viability reached 90-100%,
273 even under MCHS conditions, and again, similarly between H4107 and H9780.
274 Interestingly, the same levels were found under control conditions (Figure 5c), meaning
275 that pollen viability was not affected by heat stress in these cultivars and is not linked
276 with the heat stress tolerance of H4107. Our results also suggest that the low rates of
277 pollen viability in field conditions is not due to the high temperatures, but rather to
278 another environmental factor.

279 Discussion

280 Current literature on processing tomatoes in general and on their response to
281 heat stress in particular is very limited. We identified a consistent difference in yield
282 between H4107 and H9780 across multiple years and locations. This difference is
283 manifested by higher fruit set rate and total fruit weight of H4107. We found this
284 difference to be associated with the response to heat stress, meaning that H4107 is more
285 heat stress tolerant than H9780, presenting better reproductive performance in terms of
286 fruit set and seed production under high temperature conditions. H4107 was bred and
287 adapted for humid and arid environments by the Heinz company
288 ([https://d36rz30b5p7lsd.cloudfront.net/372/studio/assets/v1611911409263_10546046](https://d36rz30b5p7lsd.cloudfront.net/372/studio/assets/v1611911409263_1054604699/2021%20HeinzSeed%20International%20Brochure.pdf)
289 [99/2021%20HeinzSeed%20International%20Brochure.pdf](https://d36rz30b5p7lsd.cloudfront.net/372/studio/assets/v1611911409263_1054604699/2021%20HeinzSeed%20International%20Brochure.pdf)), but heat stress tolerance
290 was not reported so far. Interestingly, the heat stress tolerance we observed was not
291 correlated with better pollen viability, implying that other factors mediate the tolerance
292 in this system. In one of the earliest studies on heat stress response in tomato, Levy *et*
293 *al.* (1978) showed that the characters contributing to low fruit set under heat stress were
294 bud drop and style exertion which were more pronounced in susceptible cultivars.
295 Actually, no fruit set was ever observed when the style protruded out of the antheridial
296 cone (Levy et al. 1978). Fruit setting was correlated with bud abscission and style
297 elongation under field conditions as well (Singh et al. 2015; Kugblenu et al. 2013).
298 Considering this aspect, we tested bud abscission and style elongation ratios in field
299 and greenhouse but no significant difference was found between H4107 and H9780
300 (data not shown). Alternatively, ovule development and post-pollination interactions
301 were also demonstrated to negatively influence fruit set, by applying pollen from
302 control condition flowers onto freshly open flowers grown under heat stress conditions
303 (Peet et al., 1997; Xu et al., 2017).

304 Ayenan et. al (2021) showed recently that in some tomato genotypes grown in
305 the greenhouse, pollen viability was not correlated with fruit set and yield (Ayenan et
306 al., 2021). On the same hand, our results suggest that while pollen viability is a valid
307 trait demonstrating heat stress tolerance in various tomato genotypes, it may not be the
308 case in open field processing cultivars. If this is due to their genetic structure or the
309 complex environment they were bred in, or a combination of both, is yet to be
310 determined following a comprehensive follow-up study.

311 Generally, in plant science research, field and greenhouse data are inconsistent,
312 explained by the big difference in environmental conditions between the two
313 experimental systems. We found that fruit set is highly similar between the controlled
314 experiment (36% and 19% for H4107 and H9780, respectively) and the field
315 experiments (28-36% and 17% for H4107 and H9780, respectively). Thus, our results
316 demonstrate consistency in regard to a complex trait (yield), suggesting that in our
317 system, controlled greenhouse experiments are highly relevant for agricultural
318 conditions, facilitating translating research from lab to practice. Moreover, our results
319 demonstrate the importance of temperature-controlled experimental systems in
320 isolating specific heat-stress related phenomena.

321 In order to address the challenge of maintaining crop productivity in areas of
322 temperature increment, the development of thermo-tolerant cultivars is needed. To
323 achieve that, a comprehensive understanding of the agronomical, physiological and
324 molecular responses of crop plants to heat stress is vital (Berry and Bjorkman 1980;
325 Brestic et al. 2018). In light of the research presented here, which demonstrates a unique
326 feature of specific cultivars, emphasis should be put on local and relevant cultivars that
327 may offer different attributes in terms of response to the environment.

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330 Authors declare no conflict of interests.

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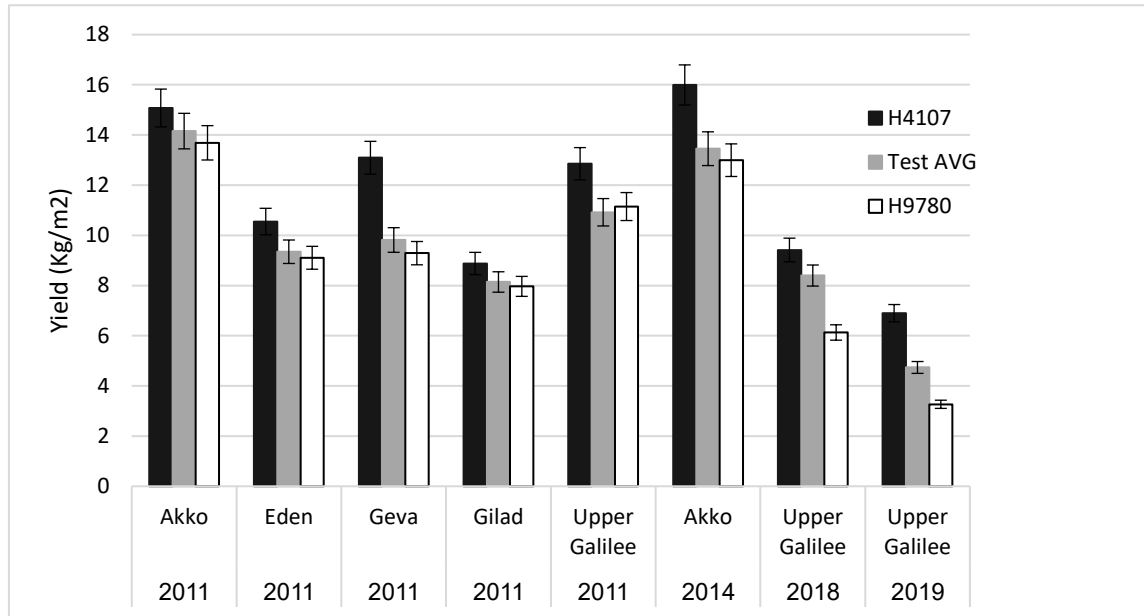
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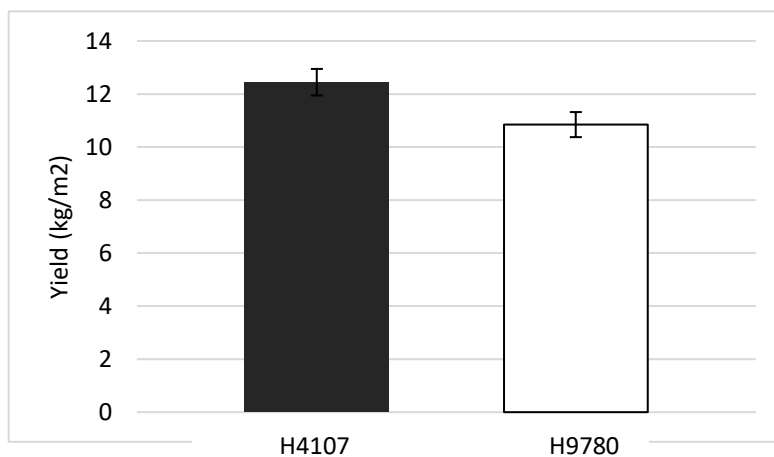
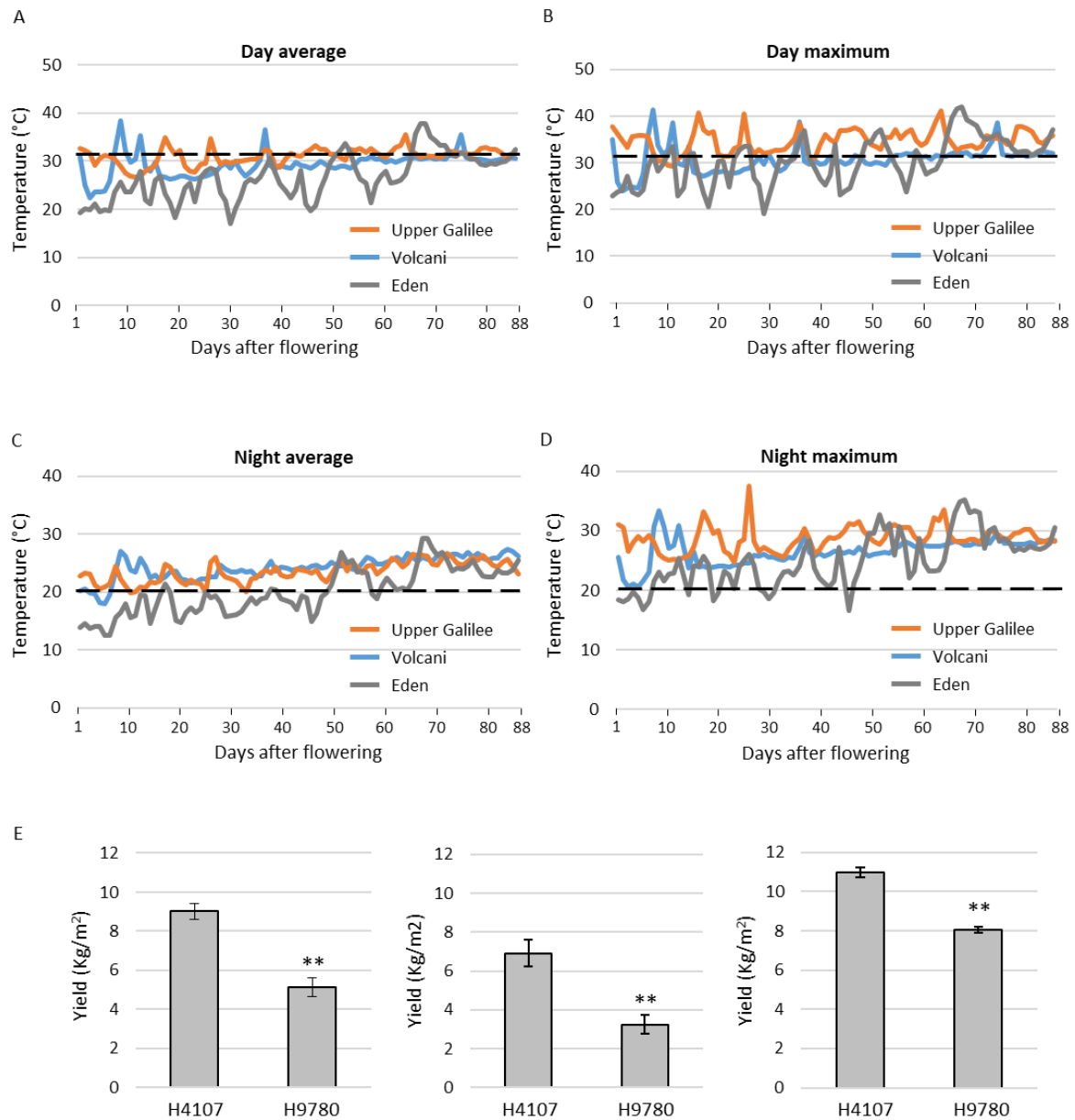


Figure 1. Consistent difference in yield between H4107 and H9780 across years and locations. (A) Average yield of H4107 and H9780 in years and locations testing both cultivars. The test average obtained by yield measurements of multiple cultivars is presented as well. (B) Average yield of H4107 and H9780 across years and locations presented in A. *, statistically significant difference (P-value < 0.05).



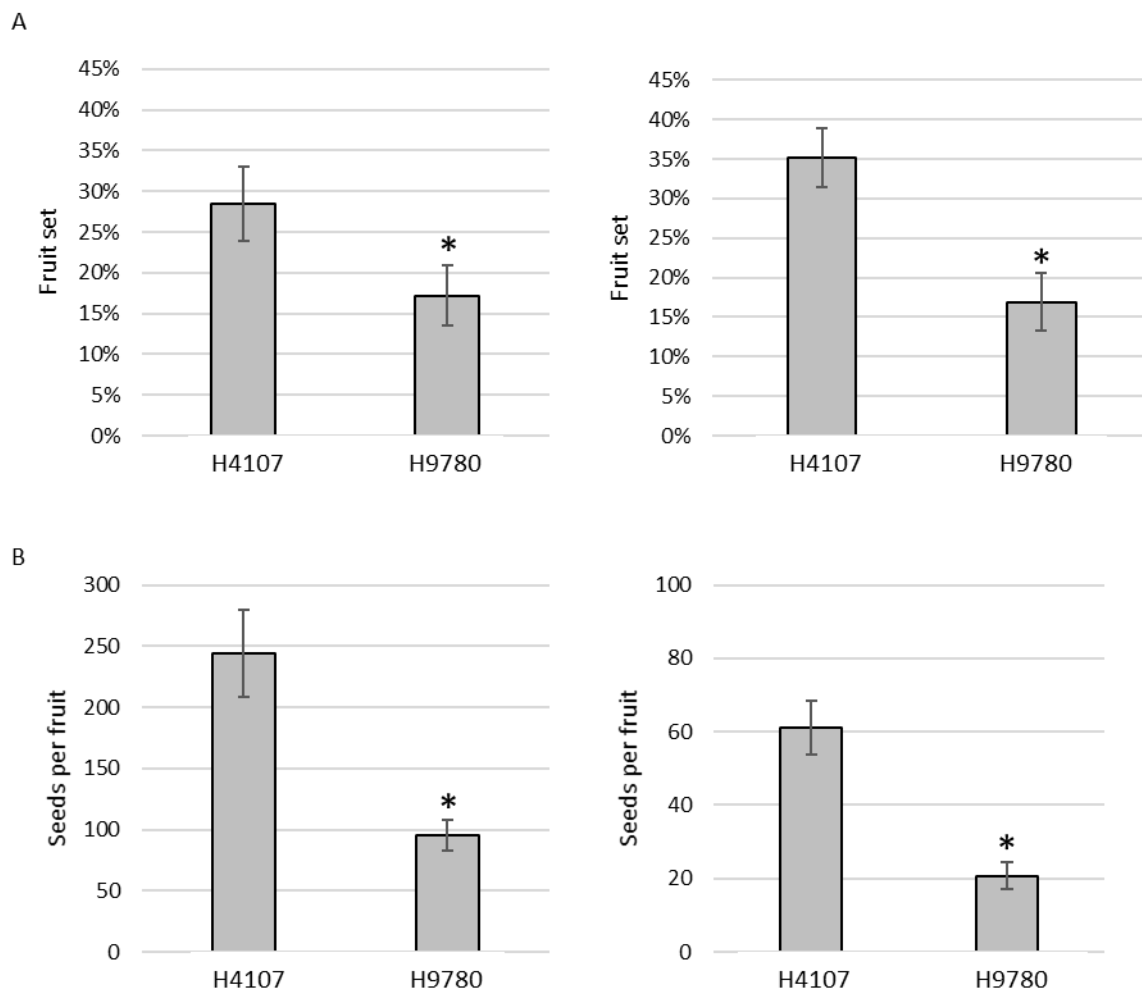
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Figure 2. Field experiments conditions and yield. Temperatures were recorded constantly in the three experimental sites: Upper Galilee, Volcani and Eden. Daily average (A), daily maximum (B), night average (C) and night maximum (D) were calculated for the reproductive period and are presented from the first day of flowering until the end of the experiment (88 days after flowering). (E) Yield performance for H4107 and H9780 in the Volcani (left), Upper Galilee (middle) and Eden (right) fields. **, statistically significant difference (P-value < 0.01).

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Figure 3. Fruit set and seed number measurements in the field experiments. (A) Fruit set rates of H4107 and H9780 in Upper Galilee (left) and Volcani (right) fields. (B) Seeds number per fruit for H4107 and H9780 in Upper Galilee (left) and Volcani (right) fields. *, statistically significant difference (P-value < 0.05).

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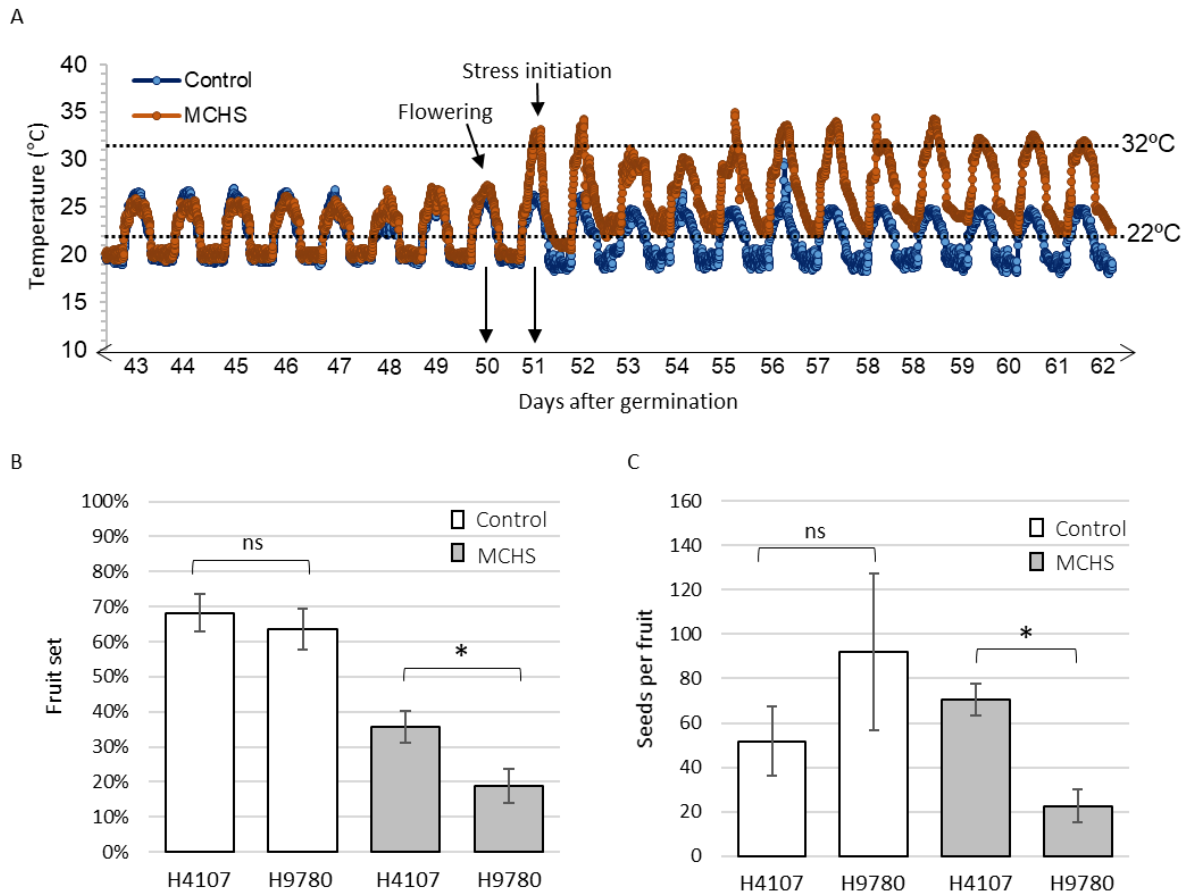
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Figure 4. Controlled experiment conditions and reproductive measurements. (A) Temperatures measured every five minutes in both control (blue) and MCHS (brown) greenhouses. Black arrows denote day of flowering and day of stress initiation. Threshold temperatures for heat stress conditions in tomato are marked by dotted lines. (B) Fruit set ratio for H4107 and H9780 under control (white bars) and MCHS (grey bars) conditions. (C) Seeds number per fruit in H4107 and H9780 under control (white bars) and MCHS (grey bars) conditions. MCHS, moderate chronic heat stress. *, statistically significant difference (P-value < 0.05). ns, not significant.

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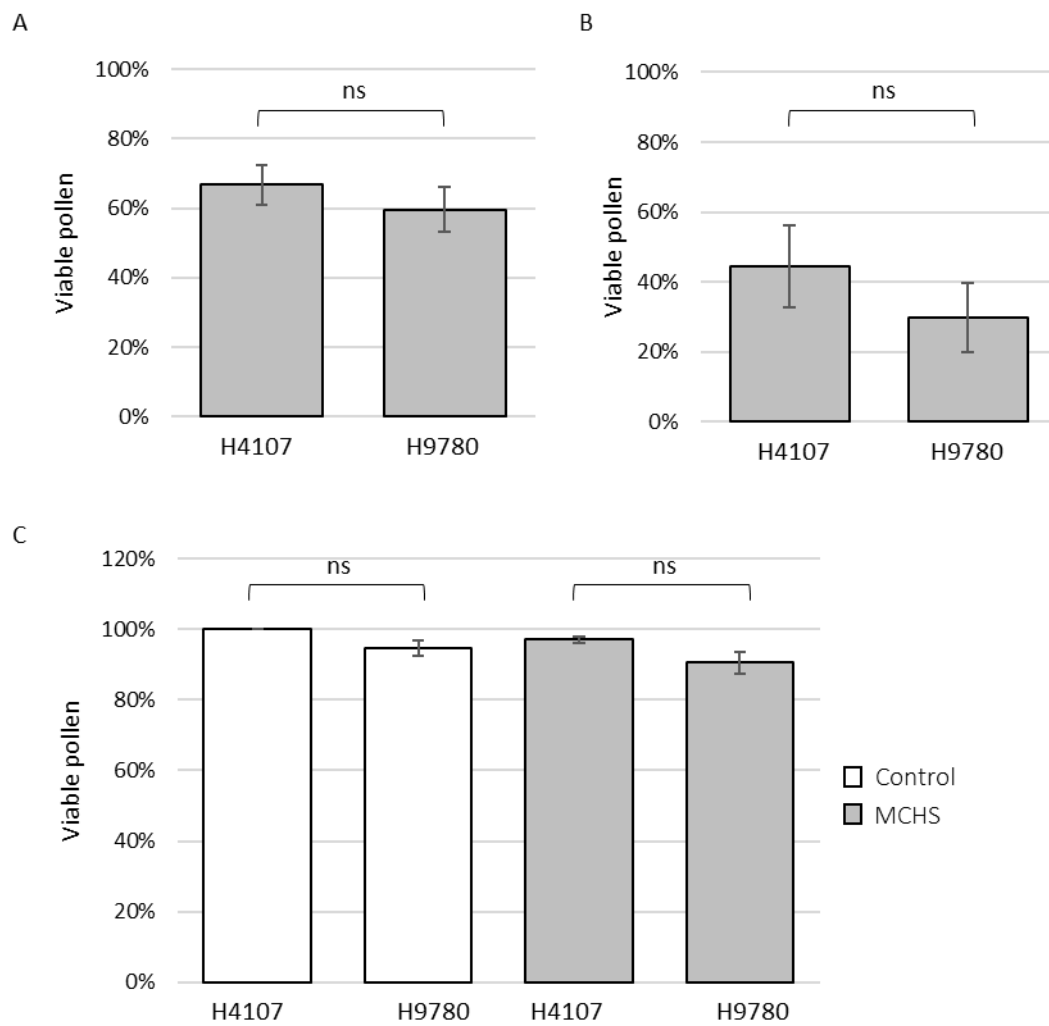
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Figure 5. Pollen viability in field and controlled experiments. Percentage of viable pollen from post-anthesis flowers of H4107 and H9780 at the (A) Upper Galilee field, (B) Volcani field and (C) controlled greenhouses, under control (white bars) and MCHS (grey bars) conditions. MCHS, moderate chronic heat stress. ns, not significant.

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Table S1. Yield measurements in field trials of processing tomatoes between 2005 and 2019 in different locations. Presented here are yield values for H4107 and H9780 as well as the whole test average. na, not applicable – the cultivar was not tested

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Year	Location	Yield (Kg/m ²)		
		H4107	Test Average	H9780
2005	Akko	na	13.1	14.2
2005	Upper Galilee	na	12.3	14.2
2005	Yifat	na	12.1	10.8
2006	Akko	na	13.4	12.9
2006	Beit HaShita	na	9.9	10.4
2006	Eden	na	11.9	11.8
2006	Kfar Hahores	na	11.2	9.9
2006	Yaen	na	7.6	5.1
2007	Geva	na	11.5	11.5
2007	Megido	na	10.8	10.8
2007	Upper Galilee	na	12.6	13.7
2008	Akko	na	11.6	10.7
2008	Geva	na	12.2	12.4
2008	Megido	na	10.7	8.8
2008	Upper Galilee	na	8.1	7.9
2009	Eden	na	12.7	13.4
2009	Geva	na	13.4	14.5
2009	Megido	na	11.8	11.8
2009	Upper Galilee	na	12.8	13.9
2010	Akko	na	13.8	13.3
2010	Eden	na	13.0	13.0
2010	Ramat David	na	10.8	10.8
2010	Geva	na	12.5	12.7
2010	Mesilot	na	8.4	7.3
2010	Upper Galilee	na	5.8	5.8
2011	Akko	15.1	14.2	13.7
2011	Eden	10.6	9.3	9.1
2011	Geva	13.1	9.8	9.3
2011	Gilad	8.9	8.1	8.0
2011	Upper Galilee	12.9	10.9	11.1
2012	Akko	15.2	13.0	na
2012	Eden	11.7	10.7	na
2012	Gadash haemek	10.8	10.7	na
2012	Geva	16.5	14.7	na
2012	Neve Eitan	10.7	9.8	na
2012	Upper Galilee	11.9	10.2	na
2013	Eden	11.2	11.3	na
2013	Gadash haemek	na	13.7	12.9
2013	Geva	na	9.9	10.0
2013	Upper Galilee	na	12.3	12.2
2014	Akko	16.0	13.5	13.0
2014	Gadash haemek	14.5	12.6	na
2014	Geva	15.8	13.2	na
2014	Upper Galilee	13.9	9.4	na
2015	Akko	15.7	14.4	na
2015	Gadash haemek	13.2	11.3	na
2015	Upper Galilee	14.7	13.3	na

2016	Akko	12.1	10.1	na
2016	Eden	16.4	14.5	na
2016	Gadash haemek	7.8	7.3	na
2016	Geva	9.8	10.0	na
2016	Upper Galilee	7.8	6.5	na
2017	Akko	17.7	14.8	na
2017	Midrach Oz	10.3	9.7	na
2017	Geva	14.3	14.0	na
2017	Upper Galilee	13.1	11.1	na
2018	Upper Galilee	9.4	8.4	6.1
2018	Geva	10.8	9.4	na
2018	Midrach Oz	9.4	8.9	na
2018	Akko	13.5	12.5	na
2018	Upper Galilee	10.3	7.6	na
2019	Akko	13.7	12.8	na
2019	Upper Galilee	6.9	4.7	3.3

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