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News Release

New tomato varieties from Bayer offer protection against resistance-breaking Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV)

- Bayer is using multi-stacked virus-resistant genes to bring more durable protection against ToBRFV mutations
 - Developed through advanced conventional breeding techniques, new hybrids will be available this year in every major glasshouse tomato segment
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Monheim am Rhein, June 4, 2025 – Bayer has developed new tomato varieties that provide growers advanced solutions in their fight against tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV). These will launch this year in every major glasshouse tomato segment and provide multi-stacked virus-resistant genes for more durable protection against ToBRFV mutations.

The first generation of resistant tomato varieties have helped ensure produce quality and consistent supply over recent years, but plant RNA viruses like ToBRFV mutate quickly. This means varieties with single-source resistance are more vulnerable to attack, but stacking multiple resistant genes that disrupt different stages of the plant-virus interaction can offer better protection.

“Resistance-breaking ToBRFV remains a long-term threat to grower incomes, so they need longer-lasting solutions without sacrificing produce quality or agronomic performance,” said Javier Quintero, Global Lead Tomato R&D at Bayer's Crop Science division. “We tested several new ToBRFV-resistant hybrids, and we confirmed that they hold up against the resistance-breaking virus. We expect growers to see similar results under similar growing conditions, which is very exciting.”

Bayer conducted two trials testing the resistance of four new tomato hybrids under high virus pressure. One trial group was inoculated with the standard virus, the other with a resistance-breaking ToBRFV isolate. Each trial was conducted in a separate glasshouse and included a non-resistant tomato variety. At both 14 and 21 days after inoculation, the non-resistant plants exhibited severe ToBRFV symptoms, but those with multiple resistance stacks held up against both the standard virus as well as the newly characterized mutation of ToBRFV.

The first tomato hybrids with multi-stacked resistance include Bayer's De Ruiter red beef Ferreira and pink beef Futumaru tomato, which are already commercially available. Bayer is launching new multi-stacked resistant hybrids for Large Truss, Medium Truss, Cocktail & Cherry Plum Truss, as well as new Beef tomatoes. Recent trials support high expectations on agronomic performance as well as resistance level, and the first wave of these new products will be commercially available in 2025.

About Bayer

Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the life science fields of health care and nutrition. In line with its mission, "Health for all, Hunger for none," the company's products and services are designed to help people and the planet thrive by supporting efforts to master the major challenges presented by a growing and aging global population. Bayer is committed to driving sustainable development and generating a positive impact with its businesses. At the same time, the Group aims to increase its earning power and create value through innovation and growth. The Bayer brand stands for trust, reliability and quality throughout the world. In fiscal 2024, the Group employed around 93,000 people and had sales of 46.6 billion euros. R&D expenses amounted to 6.2 billion euros. For more information, go to www.bayer.com.

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