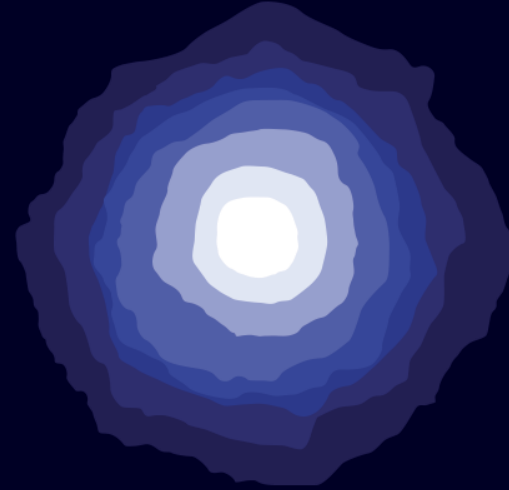


# SIRIUS

MINERALS PLC



*THE FUTURE OF  
FERTILIZER*

Agronomy Update  
August 2014

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# Major opportunities for POLY4 in the tomato market

Natural single source of macro-nutrients to support tomato yields



## POLY4's potential in the global tomato market

- ✓ Tomato market is a large high value market (~US\$60 billion per annum) and has a large volume potential for POLY4 – K<sub>2</sub>O consumed would be equivalent to 4.3Mtpa of POLY4<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ POLY4 delivers essentially chloride-free K plus fully available macro-nutrients of S, Mg, and Ca together with a contribution of a number of essential micro-nutrients
- ✓ Dramatic outperformance of MOP as a source of K on every measure of plant health, yield and quality
- ✓ Outperforms SOP as a K source on every measure of plant health, yield and quality
- ✓ Crop study results demonstrate full agronomic value of POLY4 on a high value crop of global significance

### Four of the six macro-nutrients (%)

### Trace elements POLY4 (mg/kg)

<b>Sulphur</b> (19% S)	<b>Potassium</b> (14% K <sub>2</sub> O)	<b>Boron</b> (169 B)	<b>Zinc</b> (1.9 Zn)	<b>Selenium</b> (<0.5 Se)	<b>Iron</b> (<0.5 Fe)
<b>Magnesium</b> (6% MgO)	<b>Calcium</b> (17% CaO)	<b>Manganese</b> (3.1 Mn)	<b>Molybdenum</b> (0.3 Mo)	<b>Copper</b> (1.1 Cu)	<b>Strontium</b> (1414 Sr)



**POLY4 is a natural source of K, S, Mg and Ca and beneficial micro-nutrients**

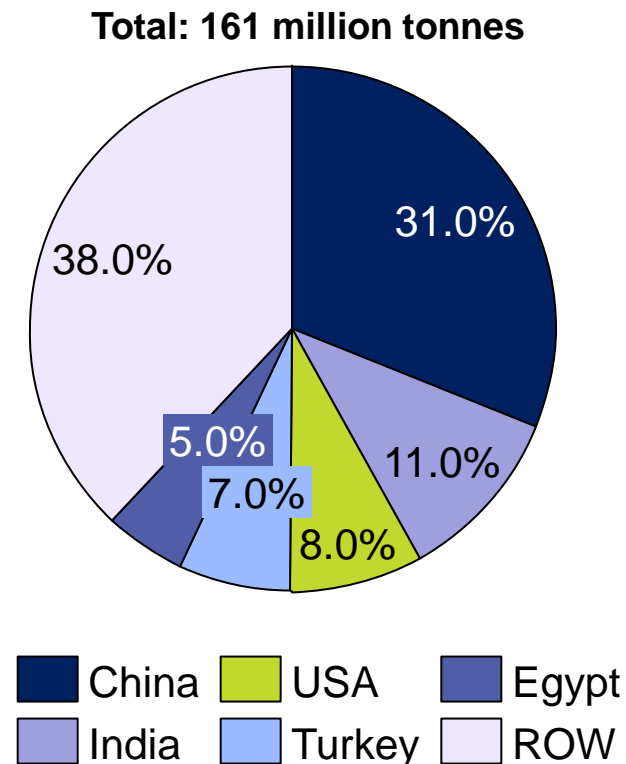
# Global tomato market

## Key market data

### Tomato cultivation insights

- Most of the tomato crop is field grown, 62% of the world supply is produced by China, India, Turkey, Egypt and USA
- The global tomato industry is worth US\$60 billion grown on a total of 4.8 million hectares <sup>1</sup>
- Tomatoes in the US represent a 8% of the global production
- Tomatoes consume approximately 0.6mtpa of K<sub>2</sub>O globally which is equivalent to 4.3mtpa of POLY4 <sup>2</sup>

### Top 5 global tomato producers 2012 (in %)



**Tomatoes are an important cash crop in which POLY4 could play a key role**

# Comprehensive tomato field study

Further global validation of POLY4 effectiveness continues

## Tomato cultivation insights

- After California, Florida is the second largest tomato producing state in the United States
- University of Florida, well known for research on tomatoes, was commissioned to conduct field research on whether POLY4 is a suitable fertilizer for tomato plants by comparing POLY4 directly, with MOP as a straight and as a blend<sup>1</sup>, based on a variety of application rates
- Depending upon yield and soil nutrient levels, demand can be as great as 200–300kg/ha K<sub>2</sub>O, 30–50 kg/ha MgO and 100–160kg/ha CaO



## University of Florida



## Tomato – Field study



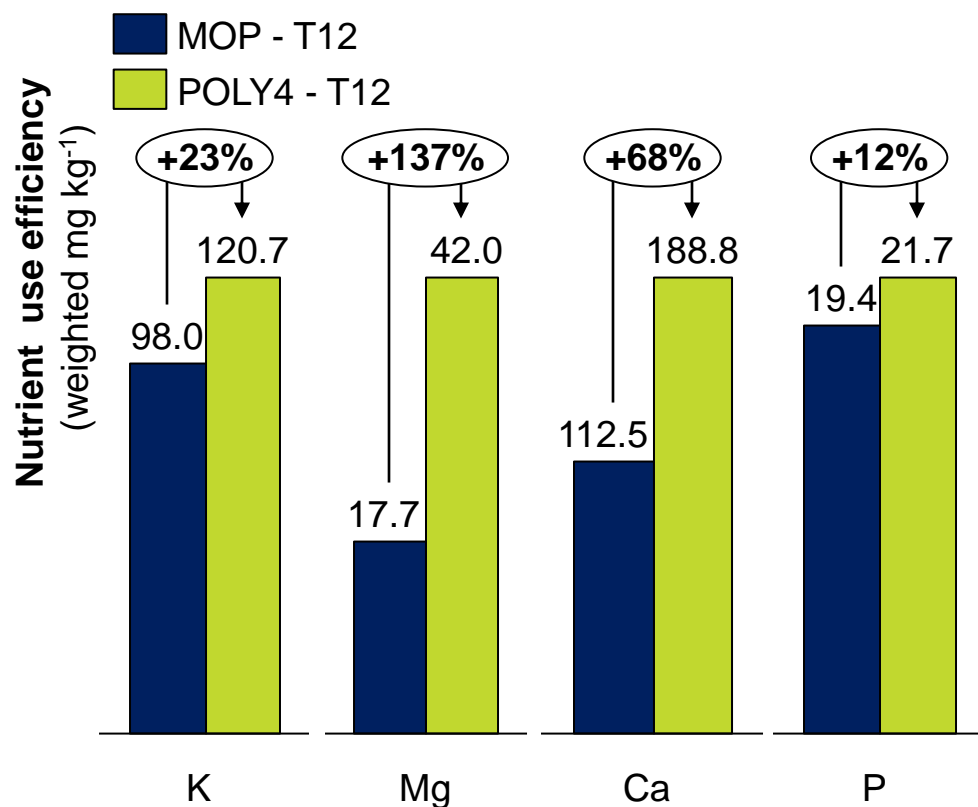
## POLY4 field study on tomatoes in the US

Notes: 1) POLY4 was used a potash source in a 12:12:12 (NPK) blend in comparison to a current commercial option; a) One hundred (100) Kg of MOP 12:12:12 was prepared by mixing 26.09 Kg of Urea (46-0-0), 27.91 Kg of Triple Super Phosphate (0-43-0) and 20 Kg of MOP (0-0-60); b) One hundred (100) Kg of POLY4 12:12:12 was prepared by mixing 26.09 Kg of Urea (46-0-0), 27.91 Kg of Triple Super Phosphate or TSP (0-43-0), 12.04 Kg of Muriate of Potash or MOP (0-0-60) and 33.96 Kg of POLY4 (0-0-14); Source; University of Florida

# Nutrient uptake efficiency in tomato field study

POLY4 improves uptake of critical crop nutrients

## ① Nutrient use efficiency<sup>1</sup> (weighted mg/kg)



## ② Key findings

- Improved nutrient use efficiency for potassium from POLY4 blend fertilizer
- Despite high magnesium levels in the soil additional magnesium from POLY4 greatly improved plant uptake
- Although calcium levels in the soil are high additional calcium from POLY4 leads to enhance tissue calcium and disease defence
- Key biochemical functions supported by these nutrients including water relations, control of gaseous exchange, photosynthesis and cell wall strength
- Improved growth rates, water use efficiency, plant physical strength and disease resistance are functions commonly associated with these nutrients

**POLY4 improved nutrient use efficiency for K, Mg and Ca**

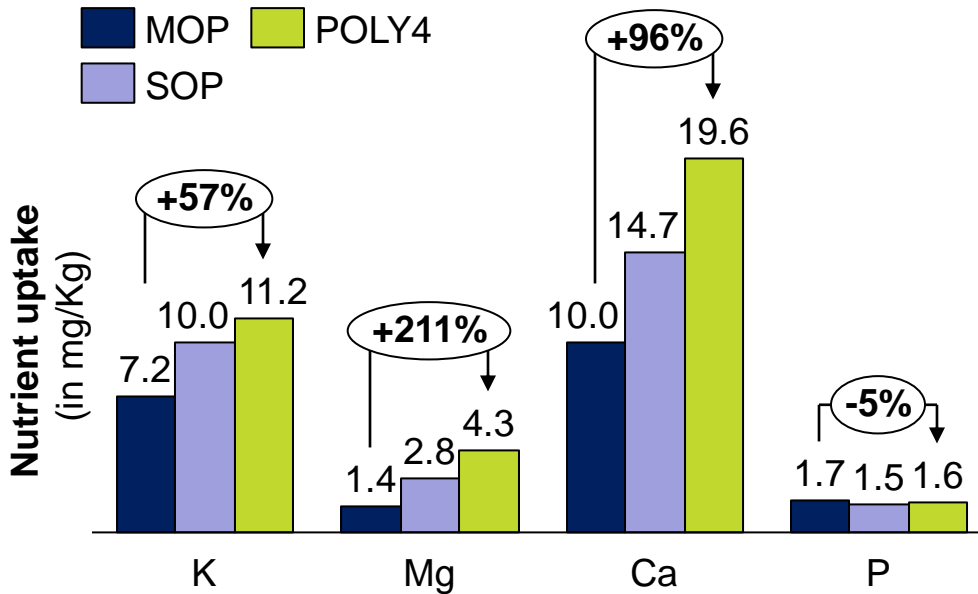
Notes:1) Uptake data from fruit and leaf analyses; Initial soil analysis pH 7.3, EC 98uS/cm, Ca 21123 mg/Kg, K 102.6 mg/Kg, Mg 177mg/Kg, SO<sub>4</sub> 31mg/Kg, P 92.8 mg/Kg soil  
Sources: University of Florida.

# Nutrient uptake vital for improving tomato plant growth

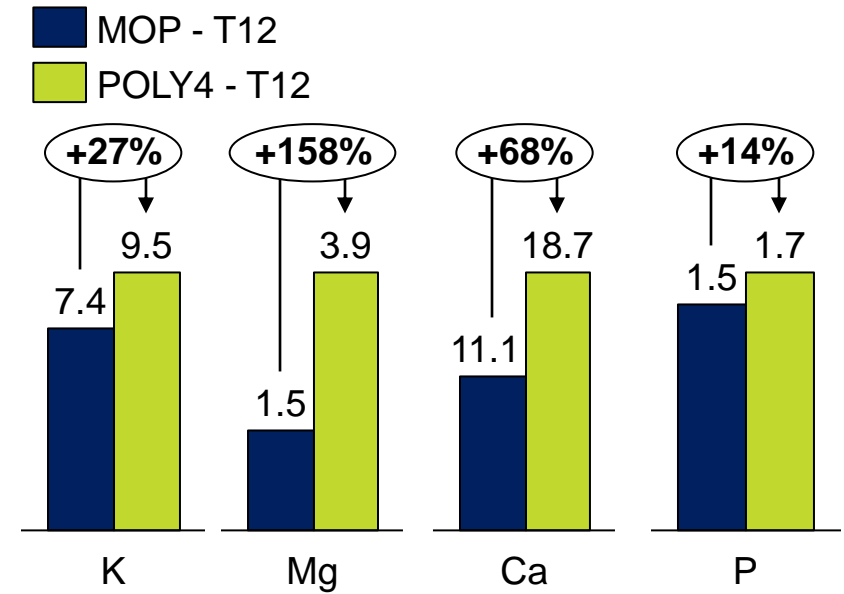


Tissue nutrient content reflects benefit in straights and blends

## ① Leaf tissue nutrient uptake at 45 days<sup>1</sup> (in '000 mg/kg)



## ② Leaf tissue nutrient uptake at 45 days<sup>2</sup> (in '000 mg/Kg)



- POLY4 as a potassium source is supportive of significantly greater tissue levels of K than MOP indicating a greater fertilizer use efficiency at the same application rate
- Despite adequate soil supply POLY4 fertilizers encourage a significant increase in calcium and magnesium uptake

**Calcium for tissue strength, potassium for water relations and magnesium for photosynthesis all benefit from POLY4**

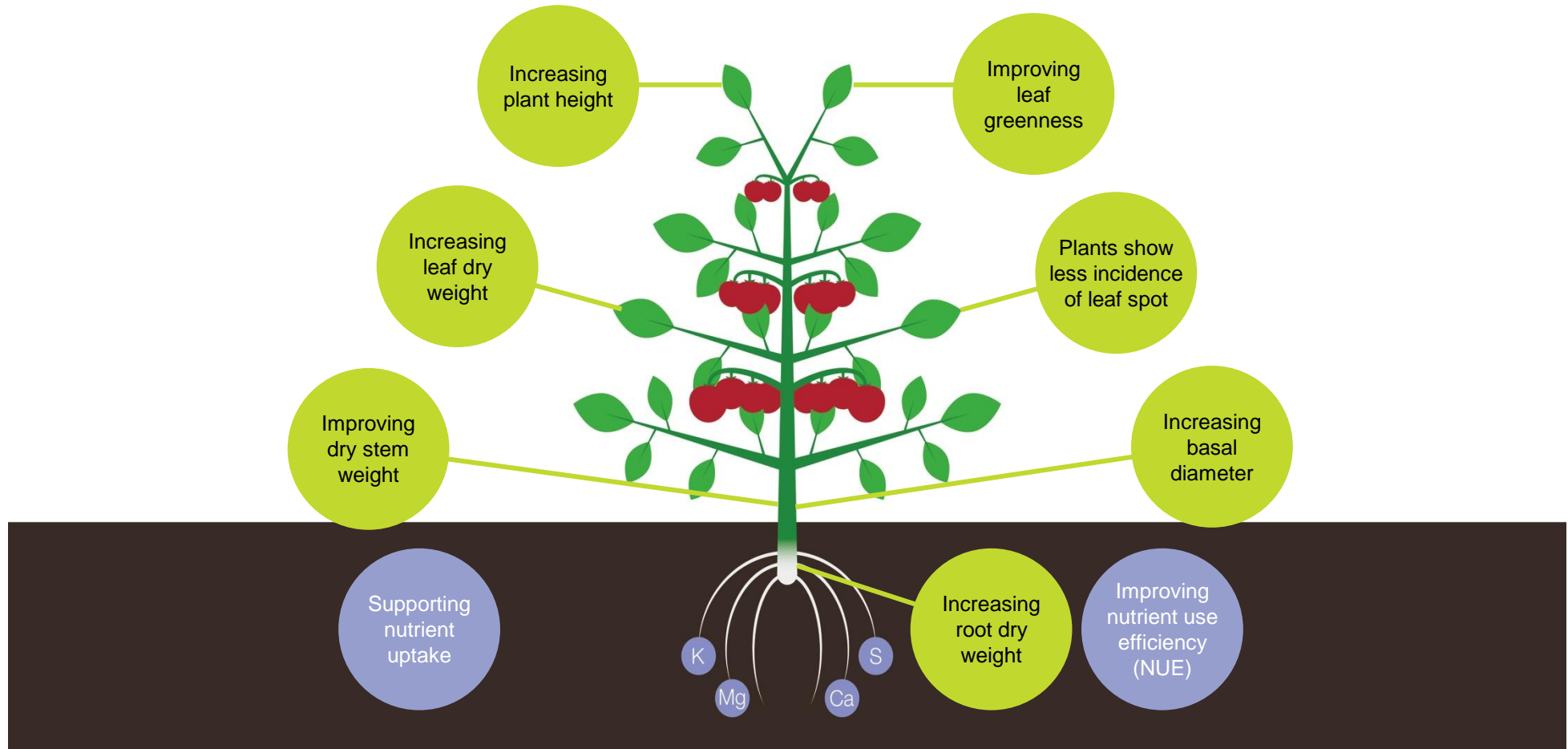
Notes: 1) Mean results from 100-250 kg/ha K<sub>2</sub>O 2) Mean results from 100-250 kg/ha K<sub>2</sub>O; Nutrients' uptake means obtained from plants fertilized with two blend fertilizers type (MOP 12-12-12 and POLY4 12-12-12); Initial soil analysis pH 7.3, EC 98uS/cm, Ca 21123 mg/Kg, K 102.6 mg/Kg, Mg 177mg/Kg, SO<sub>4</sub> 31mg/Kg, P 92.8 mg/Kg soil.

Sources: University of Florida.

# POLY4 effects on tomato plant characteristics

POLY4 improves nutrient availability which supports plant health and vigour

## POLY4 benefits tomato plants by...



**...Resulting in a stronger, greener, healthier plant <sup>1</sup>**

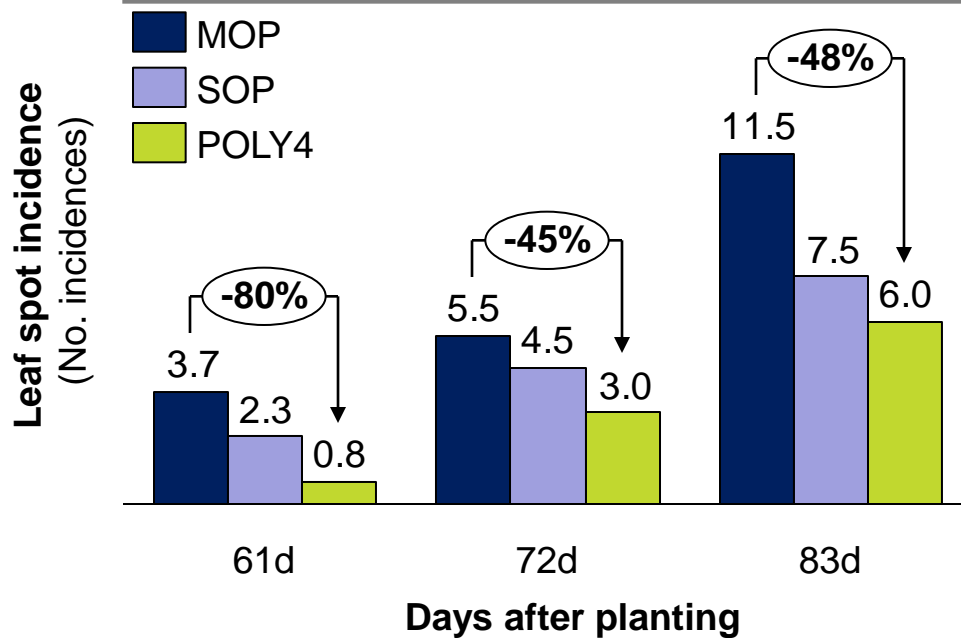
Notes:1) Appendix 1 provides overview of percentage differences between treatments validating the statements above; Initial soil analysis pH 7.3, EC 98uS/cm, Ca 21123 mg/Kg, K 102.6 mg/Kg, Mg 177mg/Kg, SO<sub>4</sub> 31mg/Kg, P 92.8 mg/Kg soil; Sources: University of Florida.



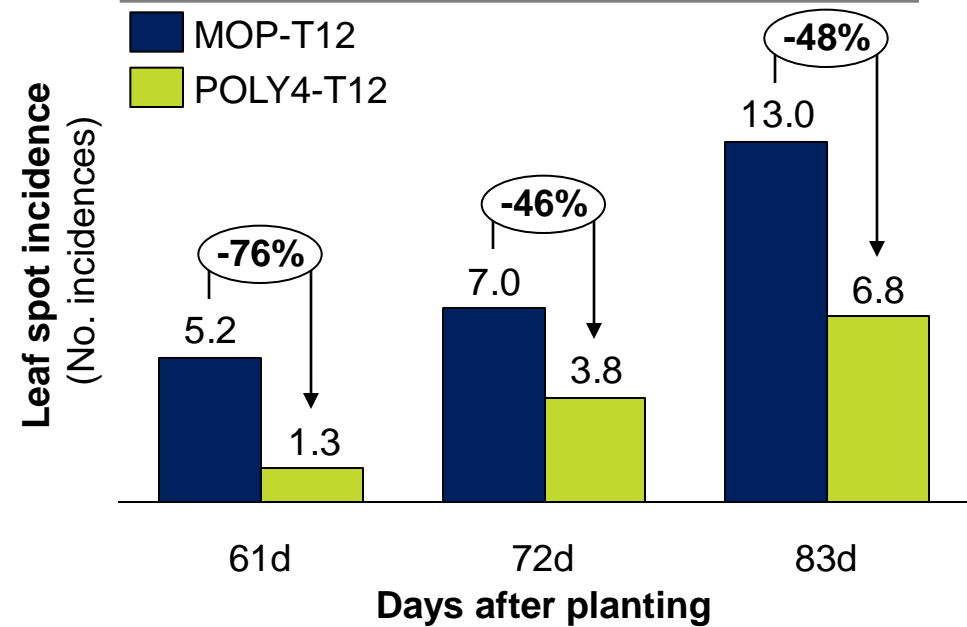
# POLY4 enhances disease defence mechanisms

Fruit and foliar disease reduces the cosmetic value of a crop

## ① Tomato leaf spot incidence<sup>1</sup> (Number of incidences)



## ② Tomato leaf spot incidence<sup>1</sup> (Number of incidences)



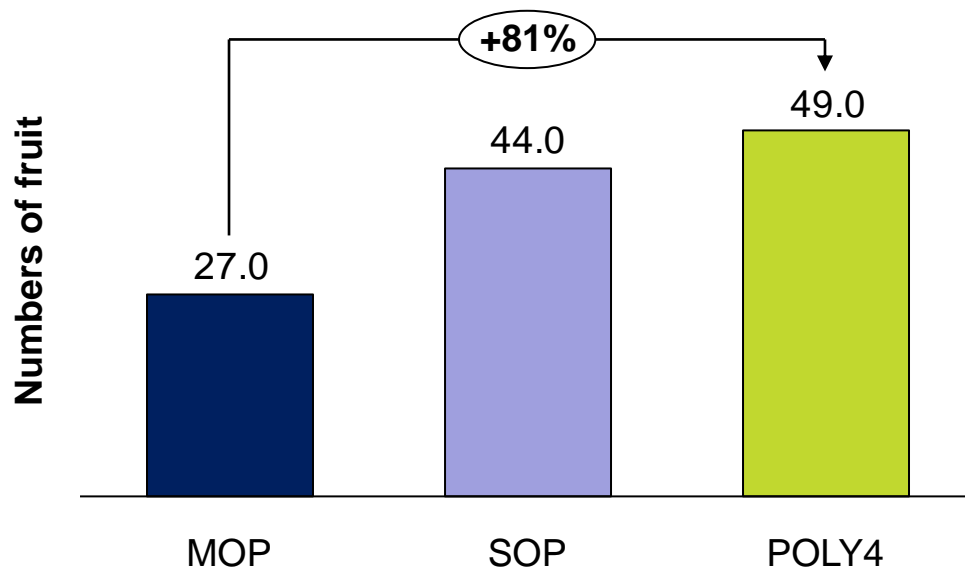
- Tomatoes fed by POLY4 blends and straights have significantly lower initial and final disease incidence
- POLY4 appears to help the crop combat disease infection throughout the crop's life
- Supporting a healthy crop with the broad spectrum of nutrients available from POLY4 contributes towards disease defence enabling the plant to use vital resources to build yield

**POLY4 seems to support a robust plant which resists disease attack**

# Tomato field study results on yield parameters

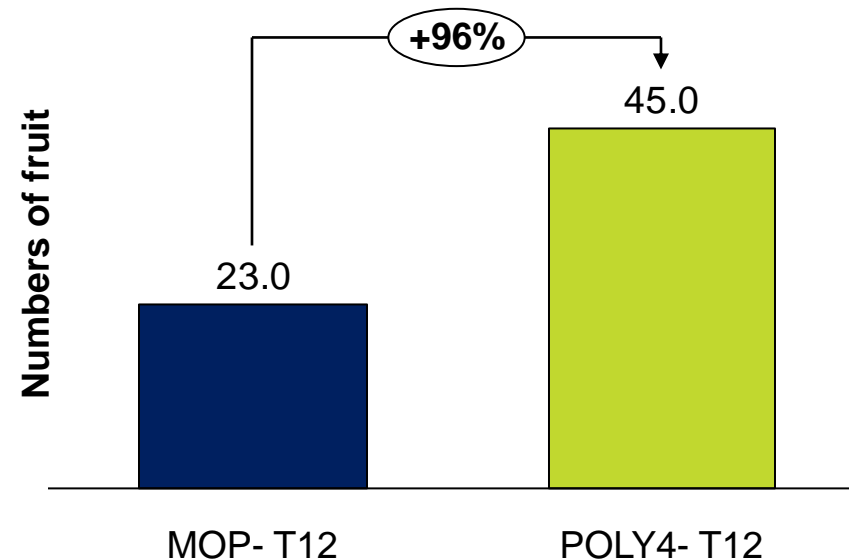
POLY4 significantly increases fruit number

## ① Number of tomatoes<sup>1</sup> (in No. of fruit, 116 days after planting)



- POLY4 had a significant increased fruit number of 81% over MOP
- Fruit number is a key yield parameter

## ② Number of tomatoes<sup>1</sup> (in No. of fruit, 116 days after planting)



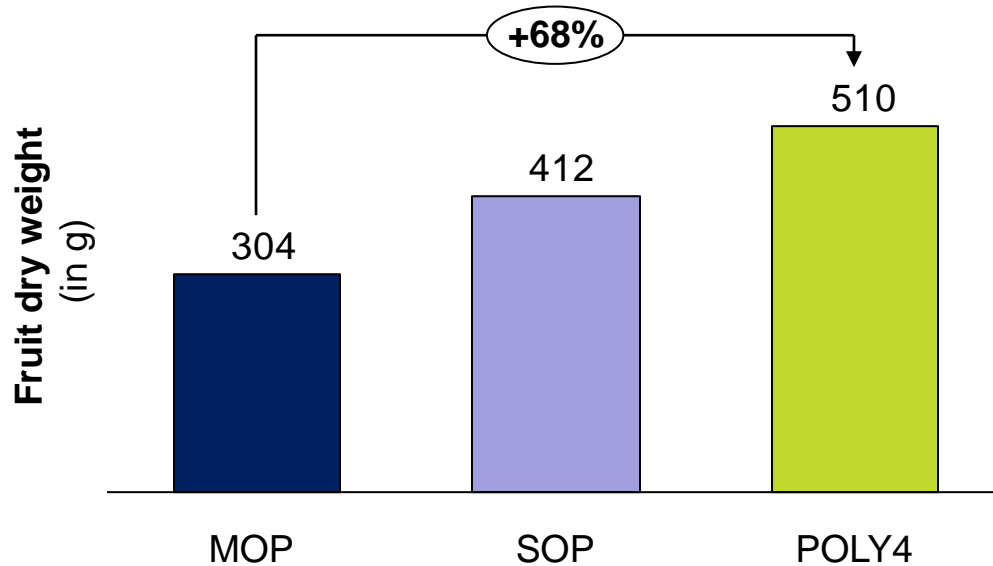
- The POLY4 blend fed crop has a significant 96% greater fruit number than MOP blend
- This result has great implications for farmer economics

**Straights & blends with POLY4 elevate the number of tomatoes**

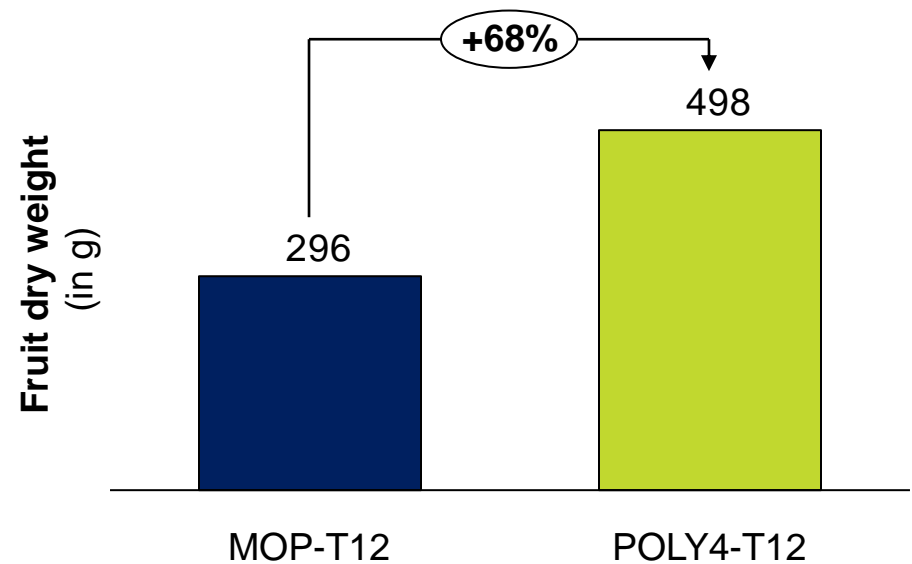
# POLY4 field study results on fruit dry weight

POLY4 increases important quality parameter

## ① Tomato fruit dry weight<sup>1</sup> (in g, 116 days after planting)



## ② Tomato fruit dry weight<sup>1</sup> (in g, 116 days after planting)



- POLY4 showed a statistically significant increase of +68% over MOP
- POLY4 appears to support higher dry fruit weight

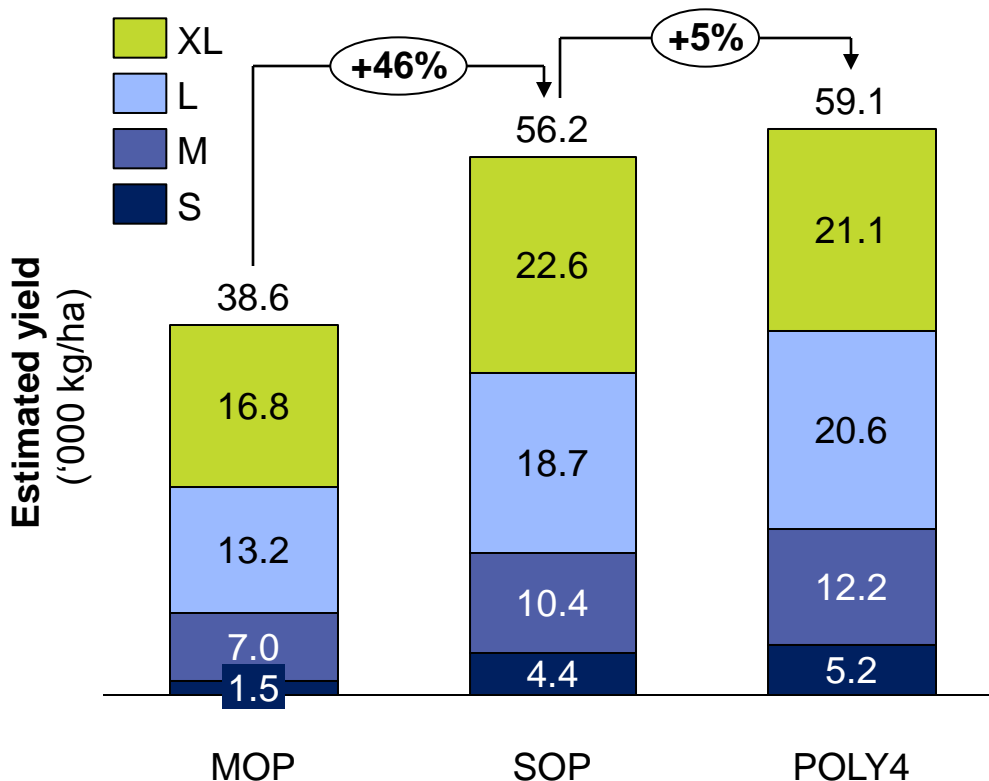
- POLY4 supplemented blend supports a significantly greater fruit dry weight yield compared to MOP
- Fruit dry weight yield is an important yield parameter

**POLY4 elevates tomato fruit dry weight**

# POLY4 enhance yield results

POLY4 achieved higher fruit yields at all application rates compared to MOP & SOP

## ① Tomato yield & fruit size<sup>1</sup> (in '000 kg/ha)



## ② Key findings

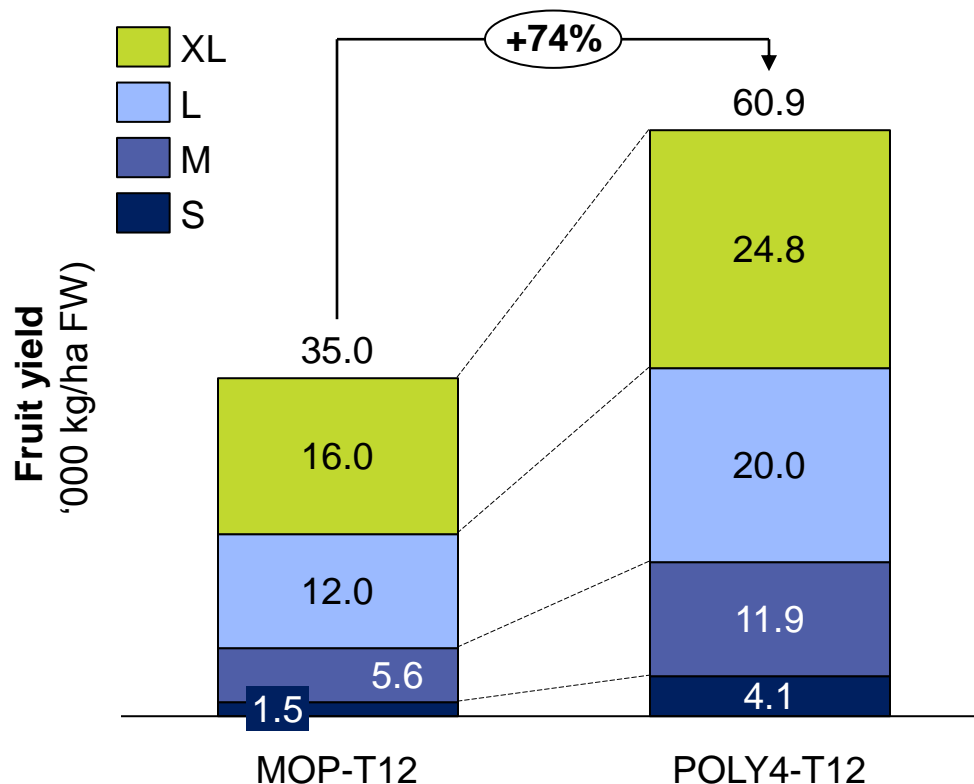
- Additional nutrients from POLY4 lift the ceiling on the K<sub>2</sub>O rate-yield response
- POLY4 significantly out yields MOP
- SOP significantly out yields MOP
- The additional nutrients of POLY4 consistently improve yields over SOP

**Balanced nutrition is the key to higher yields**

# POLY4 blends enhances yields

POLY4 blends elevate fresh weight yield

## ① Tomato yield & fruit size<sup>1</sup> (‘000 kg/ha FW)



## ② Key findings

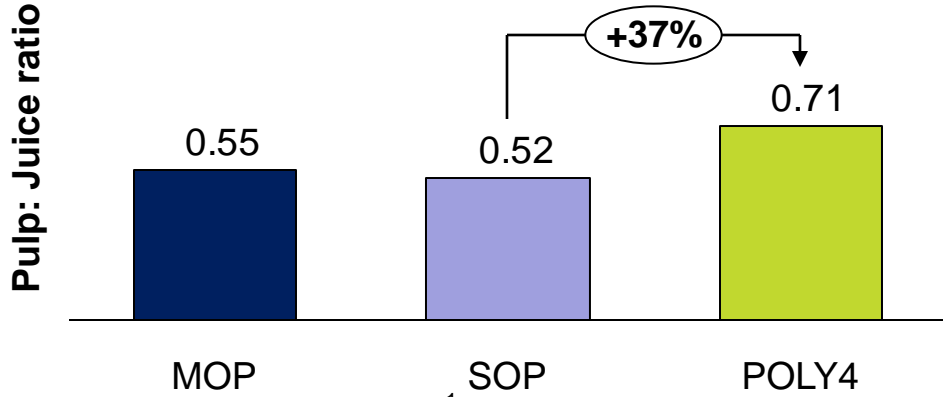
- Market target for this variety is large/extra large fruit
- POLY4 yields 57% more large and extra large class fruits
- The total fruit yield is 74% greater
- Quality is also improved as seen above
- The overall result is a premium on crop due to yield and quality making a very positive impact on farmer economics

**POLY4 increases fruit yield**

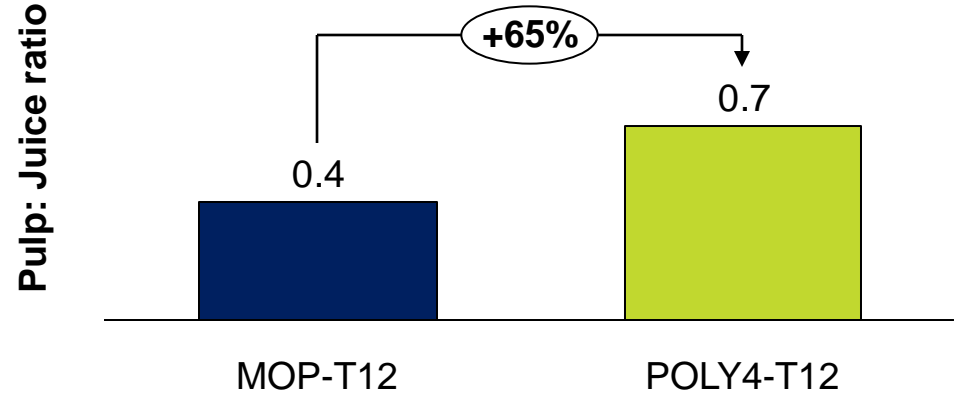
# Fruit quality field study results on tomatoes

Higher pulp: juice ratio and fruit sugar content are beneficial for grower returns

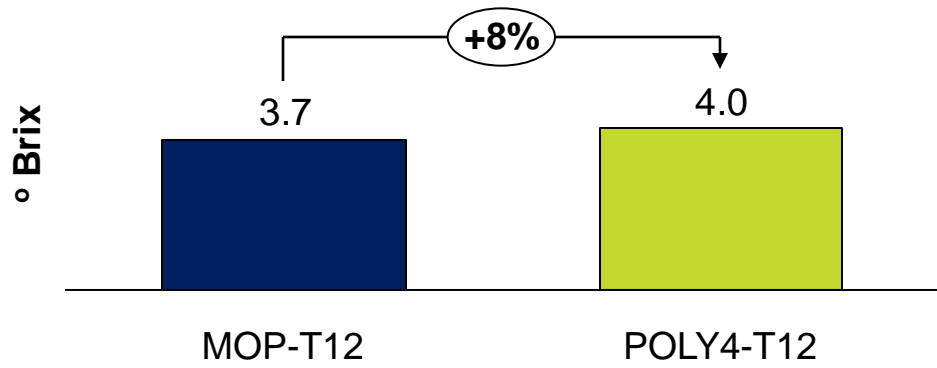
## ① Tomato pulp: juice ratio<sup>1</sup> (P/J ratio)



## ② Tomato pulp: juice ratio<sup>1</sup> (Ratio P/J)



## ③ Fruit sugar content<sup>1</sup> (° Brix)



## ④ Key findings

- Crop fed on a POLY4 straight or blend results equally in a significantly greater pulp : juice ratio
- Pulp is indicative of longer shelf life and greater suitability for pasta sauce processing
- POLY4 blends seem to lead to sweeter fruits

**POLY4 improves fruit quality characteristics leading to greater crop value**

Notes: 1) Initial soil analysis pH 7.3, EC 98uS/cm, Ca 21123 mg/Kg, K 102.6 mg/Kg, Mg 177mg/Kg, SO<sub>4</sub> 31mg/Kg, P 92.8 mg/Kg soil; Sources: University of Florida.

# Tomato farmers to benefit from using POLY4

POLY4 proves to be an effective fertilizer source for tomato farmers

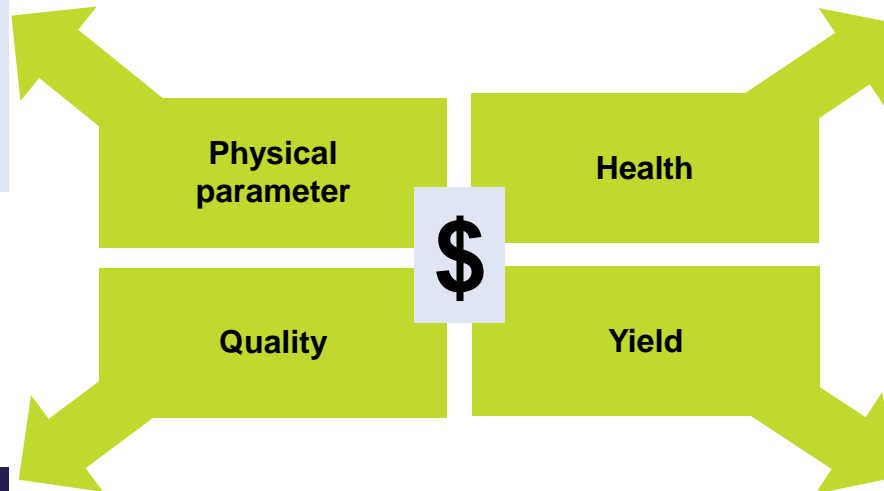


## POLY4's nutrient availability supports...

- ✓ Greater root dry weight
- ✓ Greater leaf fresh weight & dry weight
- ✓ Greater stem basal diameter and dry weight
- ✓ Greater leaf greenness

## POLY4 appears to help the crop combat disease as it...

- ✓ Reduces *Alternaria*
- ✓ Reduces *Xanthomonas* infection and severity



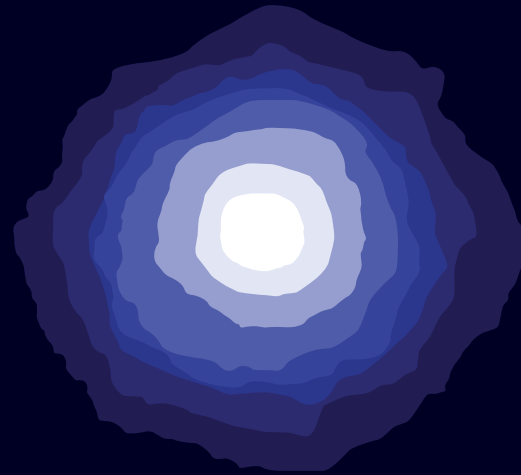
## POLY4 improves the crop quality as it...

- ✓ Improves fruit dry matter
- ✓ Improves pulp ratio
- ✓ Improves fruit sugar content

## POLY4 supports yields as it results in.....

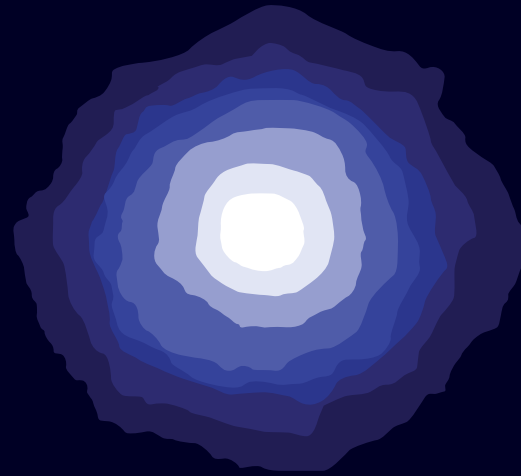
- ✓ Higher fruit numbers
- ✓ Higher dry matter content
- ✓ Higher yield

**POLY4 repeatedly outperforms other potassium sources as nutrients are immediately available to support the plant's growth**



Thank You





# Appendix 1

# Summary of observed plant vigour and health results



Plant vigour and health are important indicator of a farmers

## POLY4 results over other fertilizer products

Indicator	Parameter	Datapoint	POLY4 benchmarked against other K-sources		
			M <sup>1</sup> / R <sup>2</sup>	POLY4vs. MOP	POLY4 vs. SOP
Plant Vigour	Root dry weight <sup>3</sup>	M	+33%	+1%	+53%
	Stem dry weight <sup>3</sup>	M	+89%	+23%	+57%
	Basal diameter <sup>4</sup>	R	+7.6%	+7.6%	+8.3%
	Plant height <sup>4</sup>	M	+17%	+4%	+18%
Plant Health	Leaf dry weight <sup>3</sup>	M	+53%	+24%	+68%
	Leaf greenness <sup>5</sup>	M	+44%	- /+	+46%
	Leaf spot incidence <sup>5</sup>	R	- 50%	- 20%	- 48%

**POLY4 seems to support the tomato plant vigour and health**

Notes: 1) Differences based on Mean results from 100-250 kg/ha K<sub>2</sub>O as "M"; Initial soil analysis pH 7.3, EC 98uS/cm, Ca 21123 mg/Kg, K 102.6 mg/Kg, Mg 177mg/Kg, SO<sub>4</sub> 31mg/Kg, P 92.8 mg/Kg soil. 2) Differences based on Recommended application rate of 250kg/ha K<sub>2</sub>O as "R"; 3) Mean results 116 days after planting; 4) Recommended application rate results 111 days after planting; 5) SPAD Meter measurement average over 36-111 days after planting; 5) Mean results after 83 days after planting. Source; University of Florida