

Case Study 1 – Immokalee, Florida

Florida's climate is less than ideal for growing tomatoes in fields – they have sandy soil, very hot and humid temperatures, and many insects. Farmers add fertilizers to the soil, keep seedlings cool, and apply pesticides frequently. Tomatoes grown in field require the use of field equipment for large-scale production. The tomatoes, once harvested, are usually transported long-distances and need to be heavily packaged to protect them from damage on their journey. **When traveling from Immokalee, Florida to Chicago, Illinois a tomato travels approximately 1,300 miles.**

Case Study 2 – Baja, Mexico

Mexico's warm climate is good for growing tomatoes year round in fields, except for one crucial factor. When tomatoes are produced in Mexico, they are generally coming from a desert area. It doesn't rain much, so water for the tomatoes needs to be piped-in or pumped from elsewhere. It also means the soil needs a lot of fertilizer since desert soils are generally quite sandy and lack many nutrients. Tomatoes grown in fields require the use of farm equipment and as with all long-distance transportation, the tomatoes need to be heavily packaged to protect them from damage on their journey. **When traveling by air from Baja, Mexico to Detroit, Michigan, a tomato moves approximately 3,000 miles.**

Case Study 3 – The Netherlands

Most tomatoes grown in the Netherlands are grown in greenhouses (also called glass houses). Greenhouses usually require the use of heating systems and lights to produce a tomato in a cold climate. Since this type of tomato is grown in a greenhouse, it does not require field or farming equipment, but does still require the use of fertilizer and heavy packaging if transported a long distance. **Shipping from the Netherlands to New York City, this tomato travels approximately 3,500 miles.**