

Tomato Troubles



<u>Tomato Diseases</u>		<u>Symptoms & Prevention</u>
Anthracnose		This is a fungal disease. It looks like water-soaked spots with dark rings on the fruit. Throw away any infected fruit. Do not compost it. Rotate crops every year. Promote good air circulation around plants.
Blackheart		If you cut open the fruit and it has dark rotten spots inside, it is this. It can be caused by a calcium deficiency, lack of water during bud set. Use a calcium fertilizer for tomatoes and water well during bud set.
Blossom Drop		Stress will cause all or some of the buds to fall off. This happens during large temperature swings, drought. Mulch early with dried grass(not chemically treated) or straw.
Blossom—End Rot		Dark sunken spots on the bottom of the fruit. It can be caused by a calcium deficiency, lack of water during bud set. Use a calcium fertilizer for tomatoes and water well during bud set.
Botrytis (gray mold)		This looks like water soaked spots on the leaves. The fruits can have white or yellowish halos. A gray mold may also appear. It is spread by spores in the soil, using a mulch will help.
Catfacing		Ugly, gnarled fruits with scars near the blossom end. This is caused by cold or uneven temperatures during fruit development. Also even by viruses, fungi or insect damage. Don't plant to early and remove bad looking fruit.
Cracking		Cracking at the stems or shoulders is caused by too much moisture during fruit development. Don't overwater at that time.
Early Blight		This looks like dark spots surrounded by bull's-eye rings on the leaves. The fruits rot inside, starting at the stem. The blight can over winter in your soil, so clean up debris. Rotate crops , plant resistant varieties.
Frost Damage		Tomatoes can't handle cold. The leaves will wilt and the stems will turn black. Don't be in a hurry to plant. Our safe frost date is around Mat 20th.
Fusarium Wilt		The bottom leaves turn yellow and fall off first. The leaves also have a downward curl. The stems can have black or brown spots on them. Mulch to keep the soil cool will help.
Late Blight		Dark spots on the leaves turn brown then papery. The entire plant can collapse all at once. Provide good air circulation and do not use overhead watering as this will spread the disease.
Root-knot nematodes		This are microscopic type of worm. Plants will look wilted, stunted and yellowing. The roots will have lumps or knots in them. Marigolds planted with tomatoes can help.
Tobacco mosaic virus		The leaves will look mottled and yellow. If you are a smoker, always wash your hands or you can spread the disease. There are some resistant varieties.
Septoria leaf spot		This fungus on the leaves looks like little yellow dots that turn brown spots with halos around it. Remove infected leaves.
Others-	Nitrogen-deficiency	The leaves look stunted and yellow. Use good organic matter.
	Phosphorus deficiency-	Produces a purplish cast on the leaves. When the soil warms up, it goes away.
	Potassium deficiency-	This causes the leaf margins to turn yellow and brown. Try kelp meal.