



Blossom End Rot

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Tomatoes, Peppers and Eggplant are not the only plants that can experience a physiological disorder known as Blossom End Rot. Cucumbers, Watermelon and many Squash varieties are also susceptible.

Symptoms appear as brown, leathery areas on the flower (not the stem) end of the fruit.

This is known as a Calcium deficiency in the (FRUIT) not the soil. Many soils have plenty of Calcium but it is not readily available to the plant or the fruit.



Culturally

Some things you can do culturally to reduce Blossom End Rot are:

- Try to adjust the soil pH to 6.5 or slightly acidic.
- Use a nitrate form of Nitrogen, rather than one that releases in ammonium form. Ammonium ions reduce calcium uptake. Also do NOT over-fertilize with high Nitrogen sources of fertilizer.
- Maintain even soil moisture. High fluctuations in soil moisture (wet, dry, wet, dry) have been associated with Blossom End Rot. Use Mulches and NEVER water tomatoes overhead, always through the soil.
- Make sure tomatoes are in a well drained area, soils that are too wet, reduce the movement of calcium.
- Avoid cultivating or hoeing too close to the plant. Damaging roots, reduces calcium uptake.

Blossom End Rot can occur to plants that are very well taken care of. Gardeners can remove these fruit to redirect the energy or the plant to new fruit.

Controls

Use *Yield Booster* once per week for at least 3 weeks. Concentrate the spray on blossoms, stems and foliage, per the label. Also pour some at the base of the plant where it may be absorbed and more easily translocated to the fruit.

Another way to get calcium up the plant through the roots, is to apply *Hydrated Lime*. Not so much that you adjust the pH, just enough to supply Calcium to the fruit. Simply side dress around the base and water in, one application should be sufficient. Lime can also be applied at the time of planting to supply Calcium throughout the season.

The ferti-lome *Tomato Set* used to simulate pollination. This is no longer the case, it now excites the cells of the plant and encourages them to multiply at an accelerated rate, thus producing fruit.

Apply every 7 to 14 days to the back of the blossoms and to the adjacent foliage, for at least 3 applications.

You will get a larger harvest and up to 3 weeks sooner.



Hi-Yield

ferti-lome Info Sheet

ferti-lome

