

THE TRUTH ABOUT

BLOSSOM END ROT

Question: What's Happening To My Tomatoes?



Answer:

Black spots that develop on the bottom of tomatoes, or the ends of squash is a sign of: Blossom End Rot.

Spots begin to have a concentric appearance and begin to sink in.

The reason Blossom End Rot happens is due to a lack of available calcium in the plant's developing fruit.

It mostly occurs due to irregular and inconsistent watering. Fix that and you start fixing your problem.

Question: I Heard Epsom Salt Will Help, Is That True?



Answer:

No, you are better off not buying and using Epsom Salt. Epsom salts are primarily magnesium sulfate, and they don't provide the calcium needed to prevent or cure blossom end rot.

Using Epsom Salt can actually make the problem worse as magnesium and calcium compete with each other for plant uptake. Adding too much magnesium (through Epsom salts) can

actually prevent the plant from taking up the calcium it needs.

Most native soil, and most potting soils contain adequate amounts of calcium.

Solution:

Focus on consistent watering for the most effective solution.



- Calcium uptake depends on water.
- Maintain consistently moist soil, avoiding both drought and waterlogging.
- Mulching (especially during summer) can help maintain consistent moisture in the soil.
- Fertilize (with a higher phosphorous ratio), but don't overdo it, and avoid too much nitrogen in your fertilizer. Vines should be healthy and green but not overly lush.[er](#)

Secondary Solution: Calcium nitrate sprays may or may not be of help.

If you want to give it a try: Mix 4 tablespoons of calcium nitrate per gallon of water. When tomatoes are around the size of a dime or smaller, spray the fruits (not leaves), 2-3 x a week.

Again, you're best bet is to focus on a consistent watering schedule.