



Problem Solver

Blossom End Rot

Plants Affected: Tomato, Pepper, Eggplant

What it is: localized calcium deficiency at the blossom end

What it isn't: not a plant disease and is not caused by bugs



What Causes It:

- Low soil calcium levels or low calcium availability to the soil solution due to low pH
- High salts, Nitrogen, Potassium, Magnesium, compete with soil Calcium for uptake via the soil nutrient solution into the plant.
- High nitrogen levels which promote rapid vegetative growth, possible calcium removal from the blossom end to feed new leaf tissue.
- Un-even watering or drought caused plant stress.
- Calcium is directed to areas of high photosynthesis\transpiration via the sap stream (lots to leaf growth, little to fruit as they have no breathing pores)

Prevention Techniques:

- Prune off excessive vegetative growth
- Ensure uniform & sufficient availability of soil moisture
- Apply lime to low calcium soils
- Apply calcium sprays to the total plant, leaves and fruit, every 10 days, from the time that the first fruit cluster is 1/2" (12.5mm) in size, until 5 sprays are completed
- Spray with Calcium Nitrate (15.5-0-0) or 77% Calcium Chloride, use 5 tbs/gal (20ml/litre)