



## **Blossom end rot of tomato**

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Blossom end rot of tomato is a disorder showing dark brown or black blotches on the bottom of tomato fruit. The first indication of blossom-end rot is a slight discoloration, round water soaked area occurring at the blossom-end or bottom of the fruit. This area enlarges to a brown or black sunken area which becomes dry and hard later on. It is caused due to calcium deficiency in developing fruit which may be due to lack of calcium in plants or due to irregular water supply. Tomato plants growing in soils lacking in calcium or due to fluctuation in water supply during fruit development are prone to this disorder. Blossom end rot was seen in tomato cultivated under polyhouse in Porba village, Pfutsero. Almost 60 percent of the plants showed this disorder resulting in heavy yield loss. Blossom end rot disorder is generally more severe in soils with high nitrogenous fertilizer. Therefore, appropriate manuring and fertilization during growing season under polyhouse or open condition is essential and close monitoring of soil water content is necessary. As tomato plants need at least 3cm of water per week in the form of rain or irrigation, need based irrigation should be provided. If the symptoms of blossom-end rot starts appearing, apply 2-3 sprays of calcium chloride solution which will reduce further development of the disorder. Those fruits which are already affected will not be cured, hence it should be removed.