

Blossom end rot on tomatoes

Sometimes tomatoes develop brown to black spots from the lower center, where the blossom has fallen off. This is called blossom end rot. It is not a disease, but a metabolic disorder due to a lack of calcium in the fruit and/or high heat (https://neomarica.de/Mastodon/Tomaten_und_Hitze.pdf). Therefore, affected fruits can still be eaten if they are generously cut out. Different tomato varieties are susceptible in different ways:

Varieties	Blütenendfäule
Bottle tomatoes, Roma tomatoes	frequent
Beefsteak tomatoes	Not so often
Round medium-sized salad tomatoes	Rather seldom
Cocktail tomatoes	Almost never

Horticultural measures against blossom end rot

1. If you grow your own tomato plants from seed, you can improve water and nutrient uptake by adding mycorrhiza to the roots when pricking out.
(<https://www.mykorrhiza-shop.de/>)
2. When planting the tomatoes, you should add approx. 1 tablespoon of lime (water-insoluble dolomite or algae lime) to the planting hole. The soil bacteria process the calcium over a longer period of time and make it available to the plant. If the soil is very poor, you can also add a teaspoon of organic soil activator.
3. Water young plants as infrequently as possible so that they develop deep roots. It is best to place a watering ring and only fill it when they hang their heads.
4. If possible, do not use rainwater for watering. Due to air pollution with nitrogen oxides, rainwater is always slightly acidic and the lime is washed out. If you have to water with rainwater, fertilize again with lime halfway through the cultivation period, about half as much as at the beginning.

Tomato seeds for sale in DIY stores and seed shops are usually derived from mass-produced tomato seeds. These are bred according to the following criteria:

- burst resistance
- simultaneous fruit ripening
- long storage time
- good transportability
- large fruits

These criteria are less important in private cultivation, as you want to harvest tasty tomatoes for as long as possible. Hobby gardeners place much more emphasis on taste and disease resistance.

It is therefore worth growing your own plants from seeds, e.g. from the open source program.