

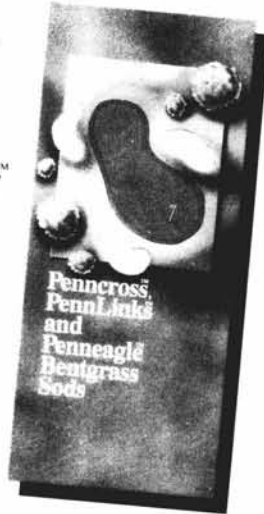
Finally, Bent Sod With Assured Compatibility

PENNCROSS GROWN ON A FUMIGATED USGA GREENS MIX SOIL

H & E Sod Nursery provides you with Penncross™ Bentgrass Sod that is grown on fumigated USGA Greens Mix soils making this superior turf totally compatible with golf course greens anywhere in the country.

For more facts about all of the top golf course turfs we provide: Penncross™ PennLinks™ and Penneagle™ Bentgrass Sod... phone, fax, or write for a FREE INFORMATION PACKET: 3900 West 167th Street, Markham, IL 60426. Fax: 708-596-2481.

Phone: 708-596-7200



In Your Garden Blossom-End Rot on Tomatoes

by James A. Fizzell, Sr. Ext. Adviser
Horticulture

For weeks you have carefully tended your tomato plants and are about to be rewarded with those delicious red beauties. But what is happening to them? The bottoms are all brown and shrunken. Blossom-end rot has struck again.

Cindy Garber, Summer Horticulturist with the University of Illinois Cook County Extension Service in Rolling Meadows says calls are beginning to come in from gardeners who are having this unhappy experience.

Blossom-end rot of tomatoes is a non-infectious disease. That means it is not caused by fungi or bacteria. It first appears as a water-soaked area on the bottom of the tomato. The area enlarges or the fruit grows, then dries and shrinks, and turns black or brown in color. The affected area can involve half of the fruit.

The main cause of the disease appears to be stresses that result in a lack of calcium in the cell walls of the fruit. In some parts of the country the problem can be alleviated by the addition of lime, but here on our alkaline soils it doesn't usually work.

Also your other garden crops may not need the extra calcium. Fertilizer high in nitrogen seems to increase the problem, as does an infrequent or an insufficient supply of water. The problem can occur during prolonged dry periods while the plant is making vigorous growth; or after unusually abundant rains followed by dry periods.

Certain varieties are more prone to the blossom-end rot. Also the problem is more severe on staked plants and on pruned plants.

Caging instead of staking reduces the problem and can increase fruit production.

Other simple ways to help combat this problem are:

1. Grow tomatoes in a well-drained area.
2. Avoid excess use of fertilizer; apply fertilizer according to a soil test.
3. Avoid close, deep cultivation once tomatoes are planted.
4. Maintain uniform soil moisture with irrigation and the use of mulch around plants.
5. Grow resistant varieties.

Blossom-end rot is most severe on the first fruits, and later pickings are often unaffected.

Reach, Speed & Stability



Ford New Holland "Super Boom" skid-steer loaders do more for you:

- * Reach - Loads center of six-wheel dump.
- * Speed - Faster cycle times, speeds up loading/unloading operations.
- * Stability - Longer wheelbase with low center of gravity.

MARTIN IMPLEMENT SALES, INC.
16400 S. 104th Ave.
Orland Park, IL 60462
(708) 349-8430



Courage isn't a brilliant dash,
A daring deed in a moment's flash;
It isn't an instantaneous thing
Born of despair with a sudden spring.
But it's something deep in the soul of man
That is working always to serve some plan.

— Edgar A. Guest