

## Supplement to June Newsletter

### **Blossom End Rot on Tomatoes**

One member asked me about blossom end rot on tomatoes. She has three plants and all three have symptoms. My memory failed me, so I had to look it up.

At the site "Let's Grow Tomatoes Together" online I found this: "A calcium deficiency is the most often cause of blossom end rot in tomatoes. The root cause of this deficiency is thought to be to the fluctuations of heat and cold weather and excessive rainfall. When these occur at the same time, calcium becomes unavailable to the plant.

"Aggravating factors are soil with too high a Ph (too acidic), plants too close together causing a lack of air circulation, from over watering or from high humidity"

"You can't do much about poor weather conditions so the best treatment and control is to do everything possible to avoid the problem. Get your soil tested for Ph regularly.... Do not over-water your plants. Once your tiny plant is established in the ground, stress it slightly by letting it dry out in between watering. This produces deep root system capable of drawing up nutrients from the soil. Plant seedlings far enough apart to allow good circulation, pull out suckers to keep only 3 - 5 main stems and trim the bottom leaves off the plants. Use mulch to keep even moisture levels."

"Once the problem develops, it is very difficult to control. First try to stabilize the moisture level ...side-dress plants with well composted manure or water with compost tea