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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Tomato Problems

(0:40)



University of Minnesota plant pathologists have been receiving reports from home gardeners of tomato disease problems.

Most of the reports involve non-infectious disease and two infectious ones--early blight and verticillium (vert-i-sill-i-um) wilt.

Leafroll is quite common this year. Symptoms are most prominent on the leaves at the base of the plant. Leaf margins roll upward, often until they touch or overlap. Ordinarily leafroll doesn't cause any yield reduction. It can be avoided by planting in well drained soils, using only moderate fertilization and maintaining uniform soil moisture by mulching.

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Blossom End Rot

(0:35)

Blossom end rot is a non-infectious disease of tomatoes and can appear on fruits in any stage of development. The first symptom is a water-soaked spot on the blossom end of the fruit.

The spot enlarges and becomes dry, sunken and brown to black. This dead tissue often is invaded by microorganisms which cause the fruit to rot.

Blossom end rot most often is associated with extreme fluctuations in the water supply. Other factors include high fertility levels, staking of plants and root diseases which may limit water and nutrient uptake in the plant.

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