

Common Cultural Problems

Fruit-Cracking

Symptoms: Circular or radial cracks appear on the stem end of ripening fruit. Primarily affects tomatoes.

Control: Provide consistent moisture and well-drained soils.



Photo: Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org

Cat-Facing

Symptoms: Malformed fruit with greenish bands. Primarily affects tomatoes.

Control: Provide consistent moisture and well-drained soils. Avoid planting when soil temperatures aren't warm enough. Harden off plants prior to transplanting.



Photo: Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org

Blossom End Rot

Symptoms: Seen primarily on tomatoes, peppers, and cucurbits. Water-soaked spots on blossom end of fruit. Spots enlarge and become black.

Control: Maintain uniform supply of moisture, calcium levels and mulch around plants. Remove affected fruit from plant.



Photo: William M. Brown Jr. Bugwood.org

Herbicide Damage

Symptoms: Twisted and stunted growth of plant. White, yellow coloring on the foliage. Caused by application of lawn herbicides.

Control: Avoid applying herbicide to surrounding areas during windy conditions (drift). Protect sensitive plants with a barrier when applying herbicide to surrounding areas.



Photo: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Poor Pollination

Symptoms: Misshapen fruit or total lack of fruit set.

Affects: All vegetables.

Control: Do not apply insecticides early morning. Plant colorful flowers near the garden to attract more pollinating insects.



Photo: Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org