DO YOUR TOMATOES LOOK LIKE THIS??

DIAGNOSIS: Early Blight

CAUSE: Most common in spring and early summer when tomatoes first become productive, early blight is caused by the fungus Alternaria solani. The fungus first attacks the foliage lowest on the stem, causing brown, yellow or black spots to form before the leaves eventually die. Early blight may also infect early-setting fruit, causing the area around the stem to shrivel and sink. The fungus thrives in warm, wet weather such as during hot, rainy springs and summers.

REMEDIES & PREVENTION: Fungicides applied prior to blight problems prevent the fungal agents from infecting plants. If the weather is unseasonably wet or cool, a fungicide application may be the best defense against blight. Ortho Disease B Gone and Serenade Disease Control

DIAGNOSIS: Late Blight

CAUSE: Unlike early blight, late blight prefers cool weather. Unseasonably cool, rainy summers cause the late blight fungus, Phytophthora infestans, to quickly spread through the garden. Wet-looking, discolored lesions appear on the tomato foliage within a week of infection, turning purple or black as the fungus progresses. Lesions may also appear on the fruit, as well as a white mold or mildew growth. Tomatoes rot on the vine as the plant declines.

REMEDIES & PREVENTION: Fungicides applied prior to blight problems prevent the fungal agents from infecting plants. If the weather is unseasonably wet or cool, a fungicide application may be the best defense against blight. Ortho Disease B Gone and Serenade Disease Control

DIAGNOSIS: Tomato Blossom End Rot

CAUSE: Blossom end rot is a disorder commonly found on tomatoes that is caused by a lack of calcium in the plant. This occurs when the tomato plant experiences periods of wet soil and periods of very dry soil. A balance needs to be maintained for roots to properly absorb calcium from the soil. You will recognize blossom end rot by the nasty looking brown spots that may begin as small spots on the blossom end (opposite the stem) of the green tomato. As the fruit matures, the spot spreads to cover larger areas and deepens in color.

REMEDIES & PREVENTION: Water regularly and insure that you are getting enough Calcium. Even tomatoes that are mulched need to be watered on a regular basis. Avoid letting the soil dry out completely between waterings. Uneven watering seems to be the biggest contributor of blossom end rot. Bone meal, Rot-Not and Rot Stop can be used to increase the Calcium in the soil to help prevent the bottom rot. However without consistent watering the plant cannot absorb the Calcium.