

Garden Problem Guide

Symptoms	Possible causes	Possible cures
Dying young plants	Fertilizer burn	Mix fertilizer thoroughly with soil
	Disease (damping off)	Use treated seed
Stunted plants, pale to yellow	Low soil fertility	Soil test for fertilizer
	Poor soil drainage	Add organic matter
	Shallow or compacted soil	Work soil deeper
	Insects or diseases	Identify and use control measures
	Nematodes	Use approved chemicals
Stunted plants, purplish color	Low temperature	Plant at recommended time
	Lack of phosphorus	Add phosphorus fertilizer
Holes in leaves	Insects	Identify and use control measures
	Hail	Be thankful it was not worse
Spots, molds, darkened areas on leaves and stems	Disease	Identify, spray or dust; use recommended rate and time
	Chemical burn	Use recommended chemicals at recommended rate and time
	Fertilizer burn	Keep fertilizer off plants
Wilting plants	Dry soil	Irrigate if possible
	Excess soil moisture	Avoid over-watering
	Disease	Use resistant varieties if possible

<hr/> Weak, spindly plants	Too much shade Plants too thick Too much nitrogen	Move garden to sunny area Seed at recommended rate Avoid excessive fertilization
<hr/> Failure to set fruit	Improper temperatures Too much nitrogen Insects	Plant at recommended time Avoid excessive fertilization Identify and use control measures
<hr/> Tomato leaf curl	Heavy pruning in hot weather	Do not prune; use cages
<hr/> Dry brown to black rot on blossom end of tomato	Low soil calcium Extremely dry soil	Add gypsum Irrigate and mulch
<hr/> Misshapen tomatoes (catfacing)	Cool weather during blooming	Plant at recommended time
<hr/> Abnormal leaves and growth	2,4-D weed killer Virus disease	Do not use sprayer that has, previously applied 2,4-D; do not allow spray to drift to garden Remove infected plants to prevent spreading; control insects that transmit