



AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center

Fact Sheet

Tomato Disorders

Catfacing

Found worldwide



Symptoms

This is a physiological disorder that occurs most often on the first-formed fruits. It is more prevalent on large-fruited, fresh-market tomatoes.

Tomato fruit are misshapen with large scars and cavities in the blossom end. Streaks and bands of scaly, dark greenish and tan scar tissue occur between the swellings. The fruit may be kidney-shaped or distorted into other shapes.

Symptoms arising from exposure of tomato plants to hormonal herbicides such as 2,4-D may look similar on the fruit; but catfacing does not affect the leaves whereas herbicides will cause distortion and curling of leaves.

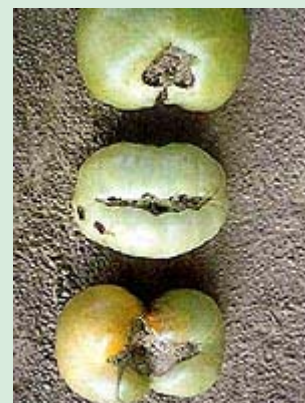
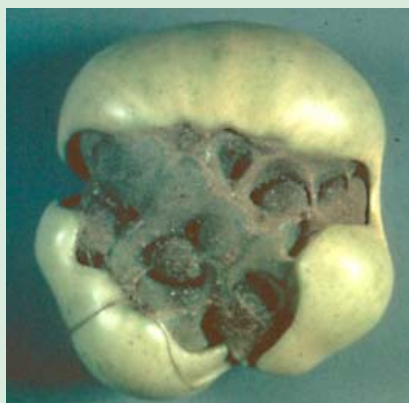
Conditions for Disease Development

Catfacing is caused by abnormal development of the flower bud before blossoming. This is often due to prolonged cool weather below 15°C when the plants are young. High soil nitrogen levels and excessive pruning can also create misformed flower buds.

Control

Maintain temperatures above 16°C for production of field transplants. Avoid high levels of soil nitrogen and excessive pruning. Avoid growing large-fruited tomato varieties if the disorder persists. Avoid periods where water is lacking.

How to Identify Catfacing



Fruits are misshapened with large scars and crevices. Vines are unaffected.

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