

Tomato Moisture & Blossom-End-Rot Checks

Practical root-zone moisture, drainage, and soil-test checks before adding calcium.

Tomato Variety / Bed or Pot: _____

Date Started: _____

1. WHAT THE EGGSHELL + VINEGAR FIZZ ACTUALLY MEANS

Eggshells (calcium carbonate) + household vinegar (acetic acid) release carbon dioxide gas bubbles (fizz) and form dissolved calcium acetate and water. Never seal this reaction in a closed jar.

Visible bubbling does NOT prove the liquid has a safe root-zone pH, a known calcium dose, or the ability to prevent blossom-end rot. Most garden soils already hold sufficient calcium; uneven water flow into rapidly expanding young fruit is the usual bottleneck (Ask Extension; University of Minnesota Extension).

2. FIVE PRACTICAL CHECKS BEFORE BUYING OR APPLYING ANYTHING

- ☐ Check soil moisture 2 to 4 inches deep (aim for steady dampness, avoiding dry-to-soggy swings).
- ☐ Verify container drainage holes and bed drainage so roots never sit in waterlogged, low-oxygen soil.
- ☐ Spread 2 to 3 inches of organic mulch (straw, shredded leaves, or compost) to slow surface evaporation.
- ☐ Avoid heavy high-nitrogen or high-salt fertilizer spikes while young fruit is setting and expanding.
- ☐ Weed shallowly to protect surface feeder roots, and run a lab soil test before adding calcium or lime.

3. ROOT-ZONE MOISTURE & NEW FRUIT OBSERVATION LOG

Date	Bed / Pot ID	Moisture (2-4 in.)	Young Fruit Check	Water / Mulch Action
Check 1:				
Check 2:				
Check 3:				
Check 4:				
Check 5:				

4. WHAT TO EXPECT & UNIVERSITY EXTENSION REFERENCES

Damaged fruit will not heal: Remove severely affected tomatoes and judge progress on newly forming fruit.

Ask Extension FAQ #619494: <https://ask.extension.org/kb/faq.php?id=619494>

UMN Extension Tomato Disorders: <https://extension.umn.edu/garden-and-home/yard-and-garden/gardening-in-minnesota/yard-and-garden-problems/tomato-disorders>