



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

<https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ppp/>

### Tomato blossom end rot (082)



Photo 1. Blossom-end rot beginning on an immature tomato fruit.



Photo 2. Blossom-end rot on tomato fruits showing different severity.

#### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On tomato, although eggplant, capsicum and watermelon are also affected. An important physiological problem.
- It is not a disease. Occurs when fruits are green, and a third to half full size.
- Light brown areas at the blossom end, becoming dark brown, dry, sunken. More common on first fruit.
- Cause: too little calcium (Ca) in e.g., sandy soil; too little or too much water; low pH prevents Ca uptake; conditions too hot and dry; too much nitrogen in the soil.
- Cultural control: ensure good drainage (raise beds); add organic matter; apply mulch; do not damage roots when cultivating; use windbreaks; do not use urea, ammonium types of fertilizer or “raw” chicken manure; tolerant varieties.

#### Common Name

Blossom-end rot

#### Scientific Name

Blossom-end rot has a "physiological" cause; it is due to a lack of calcium. It is not caused by insects, fungi, bacteria, or any other pathogens. It is not a disease.

---

AUTHORS Suzanne Neave & Grahame Jackson

Photo 2 Kohler F, Pellegrin F, Jackson G, McKenzie E (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty. Limited, Canberra, Australia.

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

---

This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.





Australian Government  
Australian Centre for  
International Agricultural Research

---

*Copyright © 2020. All rights reserved.*