

Tomato fruit splitting (164)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. Tomato. Not a disease, a physiological disorder that occurs when water supplies or temperature change suddenly.
- There are two reasons for the disorder: (i) cracks start in dry weather, and then when water arrives fruits fill and burst; or (ii) water arrives, and the inside of the fruit grows faster than the skin. Usually, the splitting happens near harvest.
- Cultural control: ensure adequate nutrition, but not excessive amount of N; water plants regularly during dry times; apply a thick mulch to keep soil moist; harvest early and ripen in warm, dark place; test different varieties – those bred in recent years show greater resistance.

Common Name

Tomato fruit slitting, tomato fruit cracking

Scientific Name

This is not a disease; it is a physiological disorder.

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Information from NC Cooperative Extension (2020) What causes tomatoes to crack? (<https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/03/what-causes-tomatoes-to-crack/>), Photo 1 Royal Society of Horticulture. (<http://rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=393>).

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Photo 1. Splitting of tomato fruit caused by irregular water supply.



Photo 2. Splitting of tomato fruit caused by irregular water supply.

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