



Tomato Late Blight

Symptoms

- Leaves:** Leaf spots are water-soaked and vary in size from a nickel to a quarter. Spots appear water-soaked when foliage has been exposed to watering, rain or dew. Spots dry out quickly and may appear lime-green or even beige. The spots will be eventually covered with white fungal growth with spores.
- Stems:** Stems have brown to almost black lesions
- Fruit:** Fruit will have brown spots similar to stems, rot and become fuzzy
- Progression:** **FAST!** First symptoms to total plant collapse can occur in as little as a day to a few days.

Why 2009?

Infected plants were widely distributed throughout the Northeast through large scale distributors and big box stores. The cool and wet weather provided very favorable conditions for late blight. Together the infected plants and weather led to widespread impact on tomato.

Disease Dispersal

Spores are easily blown to surrounding areas where they infect tomato, potato and petunia plants.

Disposal Procedures

Pull and dispose of infected plants in plastic bags and put in trash. **DO NOT COMPOST.** Spores will spread from tomato plant debris. **Sterilize Tools:** Clean tools with bleach. Clean your hands carefully. Wash your clothes.

Management

If your plants show **no signs of blight**, you may spray with the protectant fungicide chlorothalonil (Daconil) to reduce the chances of infection. Follow label directions carefully. Reapply every five to seven days. **Organic growers:** copper fungicides are not very effective, nor are home remedies.

Resistant or Tolerant Varieties: 'Mountain Magic' cherry tomato, Plum Regal (a plum variety) and Legend (a big juicy tomato).

Rotation - Next 4 to 5 Years!!! Plant tomatoes, potatoes or petunias in a different location or in different containers with different soil. Spores will survive in the soil for several years.

Edible?

The fruit is edible if not rotten. Remove the affected area.

Questions?

Call our Diagnostic Lab at 845-429-7085 option 3. Hours: 9am to 2pm, Monday through Thursday. You may leave a message at any time – we will return the call at our first opportunity.

Source: Thomas Zitter [Late Blight on Tomato Plants at Local Large Stores in Most States in the Northeast.](http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/LateBlightJune09.html)
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The information on pest management for New York State contained in this publication is dated August 2009. The user is responsible for obtaining the most up-to-date pest management information. Contact any Cornell Cooperative Extension county office or PMEP (<http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu/>), the Cornell Cooperative Extension pesticide information website. The information herein is no substitute for pesticide labeling. The user is solely responsible for reading and following manufacturer's labeling and instructions

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