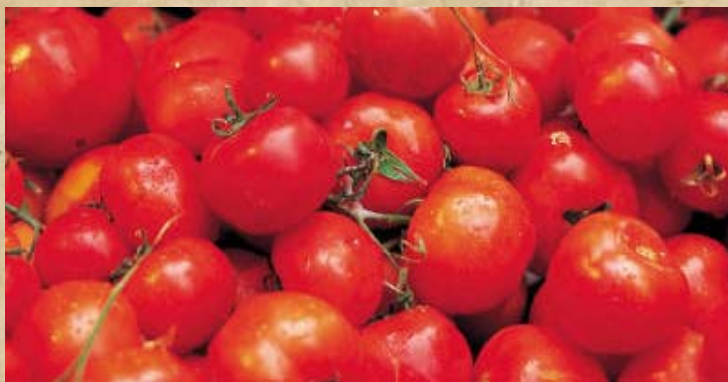


My tomatoes are not producing



FRUIT

Understanding the Problem:

Additional information is needed to better understand the tomato plant's environment as one works to detect the possible guilty party:

- ◆ What do the plant and fruit (if any is present) look like?
- ◆ Describe how the plant is watered and fertilized.
- ◆ Describe recent daytime and night time temperatures.
- ◆ Has any herbicide been used in the plant's vicinity?
- ◆ Are there any insects on plant?

General precautions:

- ◆ Sunny location as tomato plant needs 8 hours of sunlight per day.
- ◆ Choose tomato variety that has been bred for disease resistance as indicated by the initials VFNT behind the variety name. (*V: Verticillium wilt; F: Fusarium wilt; N: Nematodes and T: Tobacco mosaic virus.*)
- ◆ Avoid smoking near tomatoes, wash hands after handling tobacco products.

Cultural Practices:

- ◆ Choose early varieties that can set fruit without fertilization, such as Legend, Santiam and Oregon Spring, if fruit is wanted early in the season.
- ◆ Be sure the tomatoes are receiving the appropriate amount of fertilizer. Lush, green tomato plants with no fruit likely are caused by excess nitrogen fertilization. Soil test if needed in order to add appropriate amendments prior to planting
- ◆ Be sure that the plants are receiving appropriate amounts of water. Irrigate to maintain uniform soil moisture over time. Over or under watering can stress the plant causing blossoms to drop off. Cycles of wet and dry may cause blossom-end rot on fruit already set. Drip irrigation and mulches can help maintain good soil moisture.
- ◆ In early spring, night time temperature below 55°F can prevent fruit set, or cause fruit to be misshapened (catface). Consider covers if night temperature will be below 55°F, be sure to remove or vent in daytime.
- ◆ Avoid use of pesticides that might harm bees necessary for pollination.
- ◆ Avoid use of herbicides in the vicinity of plants, particularly products with 2,4-D in their mixture.
- ◆ Temperatures above 95°F can cause blossoms to drop.
- ◆ Night temperatures over 75°F can interfere with fruit set.



“Catface” Tomato



**OSU/Umatilla County
Master Gardener Association**
Umatilla County Extension Service
541-567-8321 or 541-278-5403
[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla/
master_gardener/mg](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla/master_gardener/mg)



For More Information:

OSU Website:

Publication EC 1333 *Grow Your Own Tomatoes*
[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/
ec/ec1333/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/ec/ec1333/)

Enjoy the Pleasures of Home Grown tomatoes
[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/
story.php?S_No=316](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/story.php?S_No=316)

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