

Tomato Blights & Leaf Spots

Septoria leaf spot and early blight are the most common diseases of tomato foliage. Both start on the lower leaves and move up the plant.

Septoria leaf spot appears first as small, circular spots with gray centers on the lower leaves of the plants. Tiny black dots that look like little pepper grains may be seen in the spots.

Early blight appears first as small brown “target” spots on the older leaves. These spots enlarge to ¼” or more in diameter and the leaf tissue surrounding the spots often becomes yellow.

Control

- Plant tomatoes only once every three years in the same location.
- Use disease-free plants, and remove and destroy any infected leaves or old plant debris.
- Mulch around plants to reduce rain splashing fungal spores onto lower leaves.
- Apply fungicides at regular intervals to prevent infection (read the label FIRST).

Provided by

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Additional Resources

Tomato Blights and Leaf Spots

- UW-Extension Publication A2606, *Tomato Disorders: Early Blight and Septoria Leaf Spot*, at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Tomato-Disorders-Early-Blight-and-Septoria-Leaf-Spot-P546.aspx>
- UW-Extension Garden Fact Sheet XHT1195, *Late Blight*, at <https://hort.uwex.edu/articles/late-blight/>

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