

HOW TO PREVENT LATE BLIGHT ON TOMATO PLANTS

Late blight is a fungus that grows on the leaves of the tomato plant. The fungus spores travel through the air and germinate when they land on tomato plant leaves.

1. BAKING SODA

Baking soda works by creating an alkaline environment on the leaf, and fungus (powdery mildew and blight are both fungi) cannot colonize the surface of the leaf since they need a neutral pH (around 7.0) to survive and thrive. This spray of water and baking soda will change the pH of the leaf from around 7.0 to around 8.0, this change is enough to kill and prevent blight spores.

Step 1: Mix 3 tablespoons baking soda with 1 gallon of water.

Step 2: Mix in 1 tablespoon vegetable oil or cooking oil of your choice. This helps the spray stick to the leaves.

Step 3: Mix in 3 drops of dish soap to help emulsify (mix) everything.

Step 4: Spray on tops and bottoms of leaves until dripping.

Tip: Begin with 3 tablespoons and apply that amount one time each week for 3 weeks. Then switch to 3 ½ tablespoons if fungus is still growing or spreading. Spray in the morning or evening. Spraying in the heat of the day can harm the leaves.

2. COPPER

Copper is an antifungal agent, inhibiting fungal spore germination. Apply a copper-based fungicide such as copper sulfate or Dragoon Dust weekly as a blight preventative. This is available as a dust and a spray. Coat top and bottom of leaves with the dust or spray. Organic options are available.

3. OTHER TIPS

Water the soil, not the plant. Keeping the leaves and foliage dry makes it more difficult for late blight to spread. Water in the morning, so foliage will be dry by nightfall.

Fertilize your plants so that they have sufficient nitrogen and phosphorus. If they lack these nutrients, they are more susceptible to blight.

Please take steps to prevent tomato blight in your garden so that it does not spread to other gardens and farms.