

# MYTH

## EGGSHELLS AND ANTACID PREVENT BLOSSOM END ROT

### THE FACTS

Blossom end rot appears as a sunken, leathery, brown to black spot on the blossom side of a fruit in tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and some cucurbits.

BER is associated with a lack of sufficient calcium in developing fruit and conventional wisdom holds that calcium-rich amendments like EGGSHELLS and ANTACIDS (i.e. TUMS) can help prevent BER.

- Eggshells and antacid may help with BER if soil is **LACKING** calcium, but most soils are **NOT** lacking calcium.
  - A soil test is recommended to determine whether soil has a calcium deficiency.
- BER typically affects the earliest maturing fruit of the season and may be traced to **EXCESSIVE SOIL MOISTURE or DROUGHT STRESS** (especially fluctuations between too wet and too dry) or **EXCESS FERTILIZATION**, all which hinder the uptake of the calcium required for a plant's health.

### PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- Plant fruits in well-drained soil
- Maintain consistent levels of soil moisture (water deep)
- Mulch plants well
- Fertilize less

### REFERENCE

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

<http://gardening.wsu.edu/blossom-end-rot-of-tomato-and-pepper/>



**BUSTED**