

Problem: “Warty” Stems on Tomatoes



Plants Affected: Tomato

Description: Tomato stems sometimes develop “warts” or “bumps” on the stems close to ground level. These may give rise to adventitious roots if conditions are favorable. Some varieties tend to be more prone to this condition than others and stress such as that produced by waterlogged soils also makes a “warty” stem more likely. Growth regulator type herbicides such as 2,4-D can also induce this state.

Recommendations: This condition is natural and not harmful and is actually the mechanism the plant uses to form roots when tall, leggy plants are planted in a trench.

References:

1. [A Visual Guide: Tomato Foliage, Stem & Root Problems](#), Root Initiatives on Stem, Missouri Botanical Garden

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