

**Problem:** Tomatoes, fruit is slow to ripen.



**Host Plants:** Tomatoes

**Description:** Tomatoes continue to grow vines while developing fruit. Tomatoes set several fruits in one cluster, and there can be several clusters with tomatoes of various sizes (and stages of ripeness) on the vine at the same time. When the fruit start to develop, the tomato must accomplish several things at one time. It must continue to form new vines while trying to move plant products to support the young developing fruit.

The tomato plant is able to achieve this as long as conditions remain constant. Problems occur if you have a cool, long, wet spring with mild weather that allows tomato plants to grow vigorously and set an abundance of fruit followed by a hot, dry summer in which the soil becomes dry quickly. Roots are shallow, leaves are thin and plants must make some serious internal changes to cope with changing conditions.

Roots must extend deeper and leaves must thicken in response to these more difficult conditions. The result is that fruit growth stalls as plants make these internal adjustments. You will see tomatoes resume the ripening process as plants finish their adjustments.

**Recommendations:** Water the tomatoes as needed.

**References:**

1. [Why Aren't My Tomatoes Ripening](#), Cornell University, Cornell Vegetable Program

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