Helpline Form

MASTER GARDENERS OF MERCER COUNTY

Date
7/31/2023

Date question received.

MG Names:
Karen Bennett
Oksana Gecha
Carolyn Wojciechowicz

Any MG working on the question should list their name.

Client

All client details to be filled out.

Name: Shirley Sweeney

Email Address: Shirley.sweeney@gmail.com

Phone Number: 609 653 4432

Town/Municipality: Hopewell **County:** Mercer

Client's question received by

Voice Mail	
Live Call	
Walk In	√
Email	
Outreach Event	

Indicate how question was received.

Client's question subject *Refer to staff member

Insect or Animal	
Plant	√
Lawn	
Soil Test Sale	
Tickor Bed Bug	*
Commercial or Farm*	*
Other	

* Questions must go to Program Coordinator or Agricultural Agent.

What is the client's question?

If the client has more than one question, a separate sheet for each question MUST be completed. Mark each sheet 1 of 3, 2 of 3 etc and staple together. Contact client only once all questions are researched to avoid multiple calls by different MGs.

Tomatoes don't look good, they have black on the bottom of the fruit.

Updates

Date	Comments
7/31/23	Asked for photos, suspect blossom end rot?

Use this section to communicate the status of the question. Leave clear notes of your research/ the status for the next shift. You may staple attach additional information.

HELPLINE HINT 1

Complete all sections even if entering into the electronic log book, this is the master file for each client question.

Give a clear description of the findings/ diagnosis.

What is the diagnosis?

From photos tomatoes have blackening leathery patches at the base of the fruit.

Blossom end rot diagnosis this is caused by inconsistent watering impeding the plant's ability to take up calcium.

What are the recommendations?

List ALL information given to the client.

Ensure consistent watering, use mulches to maintain consisten moisture.

Blossom end rot is calcium deficiency but caused by variable watering. It is safe to eat affected

Tomatoes. Maintain soil pH between 5.8 and 6.3, do a soil test before adding anything to the soil.

It will not spread to nearby plants as no pathogen present.

What sources were used?

List ALL sources used. Books, fact sheets or online. Online sources must be .edu, .org or .gov sites only. No commercial sites or blogs may be used. List site with name or number of fact sheet and university, or url.

Rutgers NJAES Blossom End Rot Tomatoes Peppers

Eggplant. FS011

Final response communicated

Date	8 / 1 /2023
In person	
Phone	√
Voicemail	
Email	
Other	

Log book entry completed

Date	8/2/23
MG Name	Karen Bennett

Enter the date of the final communication with the client and the method.

HELPLINE HINT 1

Date entered into the log book and the MG entering. File form in the binder at the front desk.