

Solu-Cal for Specialty Agriculture in Field Trials

In a trial conducted in Summer of 2020 at Hershey Farm, Hershey, PA; tomatoes treated with two Solu-Cal Enhanced Calcium products -

(1) Solu-Cal PLUS Granular with INTENSIFY Microbes and

(2) Intensi-Cal Liquid Calcium with Microbes

- performed significantly better than control and pelletized lime treatments.

Summary - The value of Calcium, and Enhanced Calcium in particular, is significantly important. When compared to Grower Standard, Solu-Cal treatments increased yield and average fruit size. Quality and growth were most significantly improved with applications of with (1) Solu-Cal PLUS Granular with INTENSIFY Microbes and (2) Intensi-Cal Liquid Calcium with Microbes.

Combat Blossom End Rot with Solu-Cal for Increased ROI

Problem: Blossom End Rot is a severe issue for growers of specialty crops, especially tomatoes. It is not a disease, but instead a physiological disorder caused by insufficient calcium in the fruit. The imbalance causes the fruit tissue to collapse and die. This condition almost invariably renders the fruit unsalable and has a devastating effect on revenue. It is especially prevalent in the most valuable earliest fruits.



Calcium is an extremely difficult nutrient to move within the plant. When a soil test shows adequate calcium levels, the plant still may not take up enough for a variety of reasons. Even once the calcium is inside the plant, as indicated in tissue samples, it may not move to the fruit in sufficient quantities. Plant health and amount of available water being taken up by the plant are major factors in calcium movement.

Solution: Solu-Cal Enhanced Calcium Products

In 2020, trials conducted in Hershey PA on tomatoes and peppers showed the advantage of using an improved calcium program based on **Solu-Cal products**.

- **Solu-Cal PLUS granular with INTENSIFY Microbes** resulted in an average 16% increase in total yield over traditional pelletized lime
- Additionally, a higher proportion of the fruit (6% more) were graded #1, meaning they are more saleable and valuable. This was largely from a reduction in Blossom End Rot. Combined, these benefits result in thousands of additional dollars per acre revenue.
- **Solu-Cal Liquid** showed even greater improvements in the amount of #1 fruit and reduction in Blossom End Rot when applied instead of calcium nitrate.

