

Pepper Problems and Solutions

Most pepper troubles come from temperature, water, or feeding

Problem	Most Likely Cause	Solution
 **Blossom drop**	Too hot (above 90°F) or too cold (below 55°F at night)	Wait for milder weather; give shade in a heat wave
 **Few or small peppers**	Too much nitrogen; not enough potassium	Switch to a tomato fertilizer; give full sun
 **Sunscald** (pale, papery patches)	Fruit in strong sun with thin leaf cover	Keep leaves healthy; the fruit is still edible
 **Aphids**	Clusters on growing tips and under leaves	Spray off with water; use insecticidal soap or neem oil
 **Wilting despite watering**	Root rot from soggy soil; bacterial wilt	Improve drainage; remove wilted plants
 **Slow growth after planting**	Cold soil; transplant shock; not hardened off	Wait for warm soil; harden off fully
 **Blossom end rot** (dark patch on the bottom)	Uneven watering	Water evenly and mulch well