

Why Are My Tomato Leaves Turning Yellow?

Causes and fixes

What You See	Likely Cause	What to Do
Only the lowest leaves yellow; rest of plant healthy	**Normal aging**	Pinch off the old leaves. Nothing to worry about.
Limp, pale leaves; soil wet	**Too much water**	Let the soil dry some. Improve drainage.
Crisp, dry edges; plant droopy; soil dry	**Too little water**	Water deeply, about 1 inch a week. Mulch.
Whole plant pale, starting at the bottom	**Nitrogen shortage**	Side-dress with compost or a balanced organic fertilizer.
Yellow between green veins on old leaves	**Magnesium shortage**	Epsom salt, 1 tablespoon per gallon of water.
Yellow between green veins on new leaves	**Iron (soil pH too high)**	Test the soil. Aim for pH 6.2 to 6.8.
Yellow with spots, rings, or one-sided wilting	**Disease**	Remove affected leaves. Water at the base. Rotate crops.
Stippled yellow; bugs or webbing under leaves	**Aphids or spider mites**	Spray off with water, then use insecticidal soap or neem oil.
A week or two after planting out	**Transplant shock**	Harden off first and wait for warm soil. It passes as new roots grow.

The finger test: push a finger 2 inches into the soil. Cool and wet means wait. Dry and warm means water.