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Turnip, Rutabaga: Boron deficiency

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.

Biology

Insufficient levels of boron in the soil may cause various symptoms in turnip and rutabaga. General symptoms of boron deficiency include stunting of roots and leaves, distorted foliage, reddish discoloration of leaf edges or undersides, and cracking, water-soaking, or internal discoloration of edible roots. The cores of turnip and rutabaga roots turn glassy or watery in appearance, while the skin of the roots is roughened or russeted. The water-soaked tissues later turn brown to black and become punky in texture. Plants vary widely in their response to boron, which is toxic to plants in high concentrations.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

- ~ Your county extension agent can make recommendations for your area. The agent can also recommend a soil testing laboratory.
- ~ Have your soil tested for boron content. Follow the recommendations of the testing facility for amending boron-deficient soils.

Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!

Chemical Management

IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides

None recommended