

Tomato

The fertilization of the tomato

The tomato, like most horticultural crops and notably solanaceae and cucurbits, is a plant than needs potassium. Besides regulating the correct transpiration of the plant by controlling the stomata openings, **potassium** carries out numerous other functions that oversee the synthesis of sugars, pigments and numerous other substances directly affecting the quality of the fruits. In addition to **potassium, nitrogen and phosphorus**, the tomato benefits from a good availability of **calcium**, particularly important for the formation of cellular membranes whose lack or difficult absorption causes the physiological disorder known as "apical rottenness", that mainly occurs in the oblong varieties of tomatoes. Even when calcium deficiency does not reach this physiological disorder, it can still negatively affect the mechanical resistance of the fruits to handling and storage, increasing production losses linked to fruits damage in the stages of mechanized harvesting and transportation. Among the microelements, boron must not be neglected, given its importance for proper pollination and for the transmission of sugars into the fruits. Furthermore, iron is also important since, by stimulating the photosynthetic activity, it improves its qualitative characteristics.

Pre-seeding fertilization

For the pre-sowing or pre-transplanting fertilization of tomatoes, to be carried out with the soil preparation operations, on the one hand UNIMER recommends the administration of high-quality soil improvers such as **SUPERSTALLATICO** and **MICROLIFE**, on the other the use of the organo-mineral fertilizer **DIABLO S NPK (Ca-S) 9-12-18 (8-15)** with **boron, iron** and **zinc** with **low chlorine content**. The product is particularly suitable for the fertilization of horticultural crops, satisfying their main needs of macro, meso and microelements. DIABLO S contains high quantities of **nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulfur** as well as **calcium, boron and iron**. These elements are protected by the action of the humified organic substance, thus being highly available for the plant absorption.



Coverage nitrogen fertilization

For the crops which do not require the fertigation technique, coverage nitrogen fertilization must be carried out, possibly with weeding, at the beginning of flowering to meet the considerable nitrogen needs of the tomato. UNIMER recommends **SUPERAZOTEK N32 (S7)**, an organo-mineral nitrogen fertilizer with **sulfur** that contains three different nitrogenous forms for gradual and prolonged release of the nutrients throughout the cultural cycle of the crop.



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Organic farming

For organic farming, UNIMER offers the farmer a wide range of certified products, including **BACCHUS S, NPK (S) 3-6-14 (13)** an organo-mineral fertilizer with **low chlorine content**, with **iron**, to be used in pre-sowing fertilization or pre-transplanting, to be integrated with **ENDURANCE N8**, organic nitrogen fertilizer to meet nitrogen needs.

When soils are calcareous or subject to ferric chlorosis, UNIMER recommends the use of **MICROSOL FERROMAX**, an NP organic fertilizer with high content of **sulfur and iron**, with boron and **zinc**.

