

TECH TIP: EDEMA ON TOMATO



White piles on your tomato stems? They are not easy to brush off like a fungus and are not 'growths' that are permanently attached. They showed up this spring when the weather was cool and wet as the plant canopy closed. The soil was kept wet, and the temperatures cool to encourage slow growth until the market started moving this spring.

What you are seeing is edema. This is similar to what you can see on ipomea, thunbergeria, geraniums and other plants. The edema shows up when the plant is kept well-watered but the RH is high and the plants can't lose the excess water they are taking up. Essentially the cells explode and then callus forms where the cells erupted.