Puffiness on Tomato

Recognize the problem
"Puffiness" causes angular and bloated fruits. The fruit is usually lighter than it should be. When cut open, holes in the tomato flesh can be seen. The tomato has no juice inside making the fruit hollow.

Background
It is caused by incomplete pollination, fertilization or seed development. Extreme temperatures, either too cold or too hot, can increase the risk of this disease. High nitrogen, low potassium or low light may worsen the condition. Heavy rains are known to interfere with pollination.

Management
Non-chemical control
• Plant varieties that are less susceptible to puffiness.
• Gently shake or flick the flowers to spread pollen from the anthers to the stigma, to encourage pollination.
• Adherence to a good nutritional programme discourages the diseases.

There is no known chemical control.

Fruit mildly affected by puffiness. (Photo by Stephen M. Olson)

Fruit severely affected by puffiness. (Photo by Stephen M. Olson)