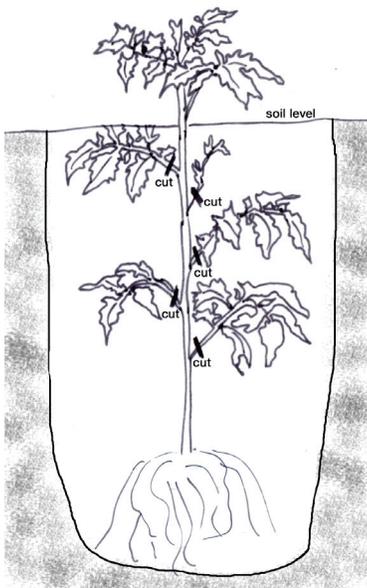


# The Amendment

K A S S E N H O F F G R O W E R S

## DIG'EM IN!

When you want to plant a tall tomato plant into your garden, dig it in deeper. Carefully cut the lower branches off and plant it so that only two to four leaf nodes are above the soil. This will give the plant a sturdy, secure start.



Tomatoes have the wonderful ability to grow roots from their stems. If you think about tomatoes in the wild, they grow up, fall over and vine along the ground. Where the stem touches the ground, it will grow roots to support the next vining part of the plant.

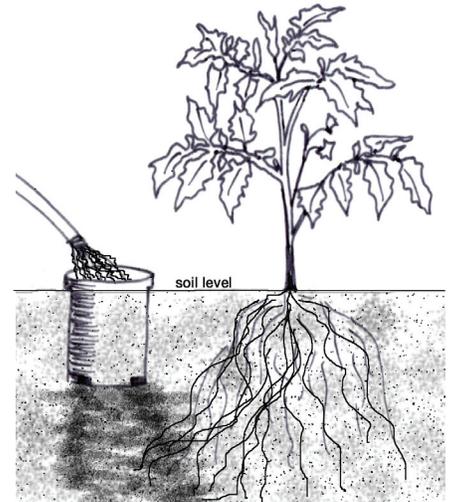
Some people dig a trench and lay the plant on its side with the top leaves above the soil. This method works well if you take care not to break the stem.

## WATERING YOUR TOMATOES

Have you ever had tomatoes that were watery, mealy and bland flavored? Watering your tomatoes correctly can make the all the difference in the flavor and texture of your harvest. Additionally, many leaf diseases on tomatoes are spread by water splashing soil onto the leaves.

We find the following method helps get the water deep down in the soil and encourages roots to go down where they are less vulnerable to daily fluctuations in moisture and temperature.

1. When you plant your tomato, 'plant' a 1 gallon plastic pot about 1 foot away. Leave it empty and keep the rim about 1" above the soil level. Mulch around the plant.



2. When you water, fill the pot and let the water drain slowly into the soil. Repeat. This allows the soil to be deeply watered without soil splashing onto the leaves.
3. When the fruits start to ripen, back off on the watering some and they won't split as easily and the flavor will be intensified.

## IF YOU PLANT IN A POT . . .

Tomatoes have very large roots and do much better in the ground. That said, if it is the only way for you to get some homegrown tomatoes, then go for it! The bigger the pot the better. We recommend trying determinate (bush) varieties as they tend to be smaller plants.

When you water make sure you give the plant a thorough soaking as opposed to daily sips.

Water until it runs out the drainage holes. Use 1/3 organic compost to 2/3 potting soil. This will help with water retention and will give the plant some of the nutrition it needs.

In a container, you'll have to provide some food for the plant in the form of fertilizer. We recommend 'Down to Earth Organic Vegetable Food'. Whatever you use, follow instructions for the correct quantity.