

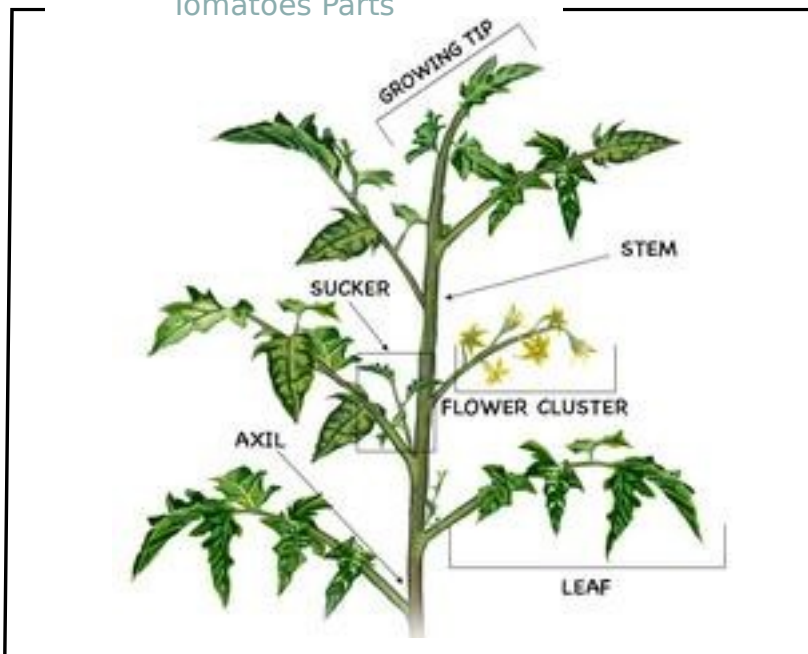
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TOMATO CLONING



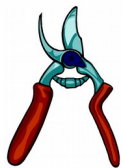
Tomatoes Parts



Material Check List



Healthy Tomato Plant(s)



Plant Clippers or Scissors



Dark glass bottle w/ rain water

Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) is the edible, often red, fruit/berry of the plant, commonly known as a tomato plant. The plant belongs to the nightshade family. The species originated in western South America. The Nahuatl (Aztec language) word *tomatl* gave rise to the Spanish word "tomate", from which the English word tomato derived.



Step 1 - Select a Plant to Clone

Clone only disease-free tomato plants. Candidates for cloning include tomato vines that are exceptionally prolific producers or that produce tomatoes with a particularly desirable fruit. Gardeners may also clone hybrid plants for which they no longer have seeds, since the daughter plants will come true to the parent plant, unlike saving seeds from hybrids.

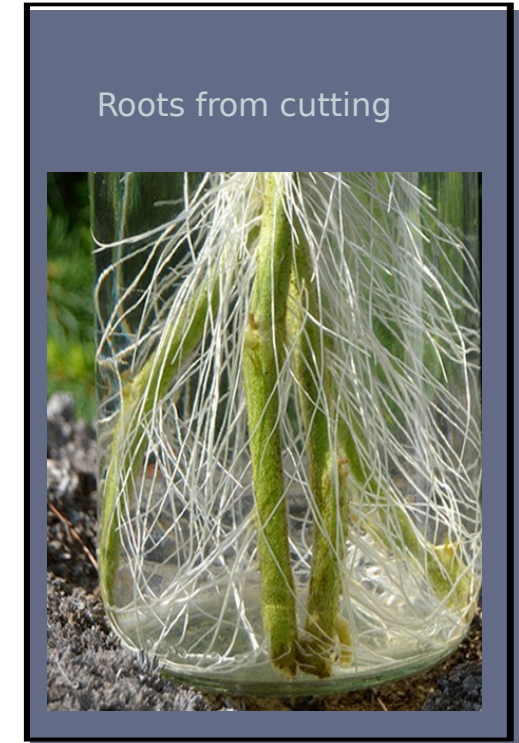
Step 2 - Take a Cutting

Cut a 6 inch length of tomato stem to make the clone.

The cutting can be from a sucker, the branches that grow between the main stem and primary branches, or from a growing tip.

Many gardeners prefer cloning tomatoes from the suckers, since removing suckers doesn't affect the mature size of the mother plant.

Place the cutting into a bottle or jar of rain water so ½ of the stem is engulfed.



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Step 3 - Let Roots Establish

Roots establish on cloned tomato cuttings within a few weeks.

Keep the cuttings moist but and place in partial shade while they put out roots.

After 2 weeks, check the progress of root development by gently pulling up on the cutting stem.

As the roots establish, the cutting will stay firmly in the medium, or you will see new roots

Once tomatoes cloned in water have developed significant root structures, transplant as you would a bare-root plant into a 6 inch pot of good quality potting mix.



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