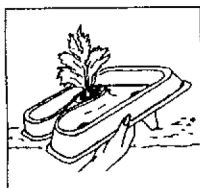


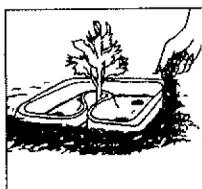
INSTRUCTIONS & PROFESSIONAL TOMATO-RAISING INFORMATION

... A Valuable Reference

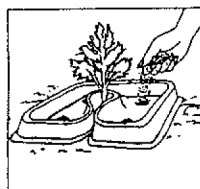
Plant Tomatoes in a Sunny Spot



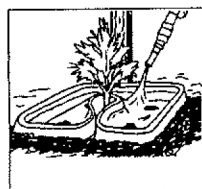
Work up the soil approximately 12" deep in a 2' radius around the plant. Add slow release fertilizer into the center area. Plant your tomato seedling, then place tray around plant, with the stem in the center opening.



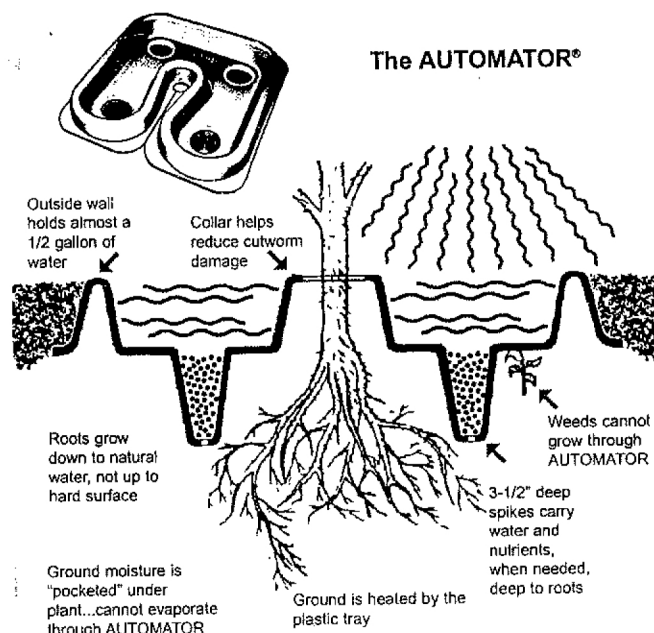
Push tray into ground, making sure the 4 spikes penetrate the ground fully. Outer flange should be flush with ground. Cover all flanges with 1" of soil.



Fill all 4 spikes with low nitrogen slow release fertilizer.



Fill tray with water, and water generously through center hole. Drive stake into ground next to tray or install cage around it (to support plant as it grows)."



Red color stimulates growth by reflecting red light back to the plant

- Helps protect against droughts
- Distributes water & nutrients 4" underground
- Retains moisture for healthier roots
- Prevents weed growth around plants

THE AUTOMATOR®

AUTOMATOR PRODUCES MORE TOMATOES PER PLANT

AUTOMATOR PRODUCES LARGER FRUITS

AUTOMATOR IS REUSABLE YEARLY

THE AUTOMATOR CAN ALSO BE USED FOR PEPPERS, EGG-PLANT, CUCUMBERS AND MELONS

IT WATERS!

AUTOMATOR furnishes a constant source of moisture and holds it under the plant. AUTOMATOR furnishes almost a 1/2 gallon of water directly to the root system with each filling. AUTOMATOR encourages roots to grow downward where there is a natural source of ground moisture. AUTOMATOR eliminates wasted water by preventing lost run-off. AUTOMATOR eliminates the tendency of roots to grow toward sun-baked ground surface in response to infrequent, light waterings. AUTOMATOR largely eliminates blossom-end rot and subsequent loss of early blooms and fruit by maintaining constant moisture. AUTOMATOR makes the watering chore quick and easy through "fill-the-pan" approach. One AUTOMATOR filling helps provide complete plant-moisture requirements during normal vacation periods.

IT MULCHES!

AUTOMATOR provides mulching around plant (144 square inches of protection). AUTOMATOR eliminates danger of damaging vital roots through close cultivation. AUTOMATOR protects against invading weeds, eliminating early weeding and simplifying later perimeter weeding.

IT FEEDS!

AUTOMATOR furnishes a source of fertilizer nutrients with each watering or rain throughout the season.

IT ABSORBS HEAT!

AUTOMATOR'S dark color absorbs heat from the sun, making the ground warmer to stimulate early, vigorous growth. AUTOMATOR radiates heat at night to help prevent damage from cold.

HELPS REDUCE CUTWORM DAMAGE!

AUTOMATOR reduces the chance of losing plants by providing a protective collar around the stem.

DALEN

700 Dalen Lane
Knoxville, Tennessee 37932-3099
865-966-3256

See opposite side for
Professional Tomato
Growing Information

PROFESSIONAL TOMATO-RAISING INFORMATION

... A VALUABLE REFERENCE

A Professional Fact Sheet

HOW TO RAISE TOMATOES

A tomato is easily the most satisfactory vegetable grown by the home gardener. It's easy to plant, requires little space, bears profusely over a three-to-four-month period, requires little maintenance, and is one of the best-liked vegetables.

The average home gardener, if allowed access to certain agricultural methods of professional tomato farmers, can dramatically improve his tomato-crop success.

This professional fact sheet contains many of these techniques. The AUTOMATOR system outlined will be of tremendous value to you. Complete details on the AUTOMATOR are printed on the back of this sheet.

CHOOSE YOUR PLANTS

Tomatoes are easily grown from seed. Begin 7 to 8 weeks before planting date, starting in window or under fluorescent light. Some gardeners find it convenient to buy tomato transplants. Check with your local garden store for seeds, transplants and other necessary items.

In selecting plants, pay attention to color and shape. Choose uniform, medium-green color (not light green or yellowing). A short, stocky, compact plant is preferable to a tall, thin, leggy plant. Conditions after setting are much more important in achieving early harvest than size in planting. In selecting varieties, pay particular attention to wilt and nematode-resistant varieties. Some varieties have very high resistance, such as: Better Boy VFN and Terrific VFN. ("V" stands for resistance to "verticillium wilt", "F" to "fusarium wilt," and "N" to nematodes.)

PLANTING

When to plant:

Set plants after all danger of frost is past. They are among the most susceptible plants to frost damage. Covering is essential to protect plants set during frost periods.

Where to plant:

Set the plants to receive full sun. Even partial shade will reduce yield. Tomatoes thrive on sun and heat, provided they are furnished enough water and nutrients.

Soil:

Tomatoes grow well in varying soil conditions. They like rich, loose soil, but will achieve good results even in less desirable soil, provided it is worked up well and nutrients are made available. Humus, peat moss or sand added to the soil for loosening is very beneficial. For healthiest tomatoes, soil must be thoroughly worked up to a radius of 2-3 feet from

the plant and to at least a 12-inch depth. Tomatoes develop tremendous root systems in loose ground, but a tomato root has extreme difficulty in penetrating hard ground.

If you intend to "sprawl" your plants, set 4 feet apart each way. For staked plants, space approximately 2.5 feet apart in rows 4 feet apart. Protect stem from cutworms, which destroy plants by chewing stem at ground level. A collar around stem at ground level, or the AUTOMATOR, will help prevent damage.

FERTILIZING

Small tomato plants need a supply of phosphates to develop properly and set fruit. Use fertilizer with a high middle number (6-12-12 or 5-10-5). Your garden store can make recommendations. Mix a small amount of this fertilizer with dirt around and under where plant is to be set. Add side dressings of a couple handfuls around plant during the second and third months as nutrients must then be increased. These applications should be high in nitrogen. Animal manure may be used, but should be supplemented with bone meal when set out. MagAmp slow-release fertilizer will reduce the need for fertilization to one application per season. MagAmp, mixed into the soil or placed in the AUTOMATOR tray, will feed continuously without burning. Tomato plants use only 3% of total nutrient need during the first month. This jumps to 27% the second month. The third month (when many gardeners neglect plants), nutrient need is 70%.

STAKING VS. SPRAWLING

Growers usually allow plants to sprawl to save labor of tying and pruning. Yield weight of tomatoes is greater, but tomatoes will be smaller, rotting will be greater, and more room per plant is required. If you use this method, plastic or straw mulch under plants will reduce rotting and conserve badly needed moisture. Most professional gardeners prefer staking tomato plants. It is neater and requires less room. Staked plants should have, at most, two or four stems. Accomplish this by pinching off "suckers" which form at the junction of each leaf with the stem. This pruning hastens development of fruit and increases size of individual tomatoes. Prune every few days to prevent development of excess vines which reduce size and quality of fruit.

Several staking methods are used. A 6-foot stake, driven 1-2 feet in the ground, is common. Avoid tying plants with small strings which cut into stems. "Twist ties" are ideal. Another method is to drive two posts into the ground, one at each end of a row of a dozen or less tomato plants. Stretch a wire from one post to another at a height of 6-7 feet. Above each plant, drop a double strand of twine which can be wrapped around the stem of each developing plant. Another way is to stretch a wire fence between these two posts and tie plants to the wire.

One of the very best methods is to form a 5-foot piece of 4-foot-high fence (with large spacing between wires) into a 21-inch diameter cylindrical hoop. Weave alternate strands of wire over a 1 by 2-inch stake, 4-feet long, and drive it 1-foot into the ground so post will support basket. Plant develops freely in basket and is held off ground. No tying or pruning needed.

MULCHING

Mulching is extremely important. In early stages, mulch maintains constant water content in ground, which helps prevent "blossom-end rot."

This helps tomatoes. Later, during the hot days, mulch preserves moisture in the ground. Mulch also prevents surface baking of ground, which causes rainwater to run off. Mulch eliminates need for constant cultivation around the plant. Plastic sheeting, straw, leaf mold, grass clippings and wood chips are suitable for mulch. The AUTOMATOR serves all these requirements.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Control pests and diseases with various insect sprays available at local garden stores. Early and late blights are fungus diseases which cause spots on leaves. They can ruin your plants. Fusarium wilt attacks through roots and causes plants to die. This disease remains in soil for several years. If you lose your crop to it, move elsewhere in the garden for subsequent planting. Wilt is best overcome by using wilt-resistant varieties of plants, such as Better Boy VFN and Terrific VFN.

HARVESTING GREEN TOMATOES AT FROST

Green tomatoes must be gathered the night before the first frost. Green tomatoes will ripen slowly in basement or more quickly on a windowsill, or in a brown paper bag; or cut off entire plant at root level and hang upside-down. This will further increase maturity. If left outside, tomatoes will turn black by next morning after frost.

PRESERVING TOMATOES

Plant extra tomatoes for freezing, canning, and making juices and sauces. Most people are aware that tomatoes can be canned, but most don't realize tomatoes are also easily frozen for use in spaghetti, pizza, soup, aspic, stewed tomatoes, chili, and many other tomato-based foods. To freeze, remove skins after dipping in scalding water, and package. They will keep for one year in a freezer.

HOW TO HAVE THE EARLIEST TOMATOES

1. Choose early variety of plant; these will bear one to two weeks earlier than later varieties.
2. Set plants out three weeks before "safe date" by using a cover to protect against cold; for example, inverted pots, "hot caps", rose protectors, etc.
3. The AUTOMATOR maintains moisture and prevents blossom-end rot. This also absorbs heat of sun to: a) warm ground during daytime; and b) radiate heat at night.
4. Tapping the first few flowers with your fingers will help assure pollination and fruit setting, before insects and the wind take over. When first blossoms appear, spray with hormone spray to "set" so fruiting will begin. Your garden center has this available in spray or powder.
5. Prune plant to few vines. Remove some leaves to allow sun to reach green tomatoes for earlier ripening.

This professional fact sheet was designed to give you, the home gardener, the inside track to a bountiful tomato crop year after year.

SEE OPPOSITE SIDE FOR INFORMATION ON THE AUTOMATOR.