

GARDENING TIP

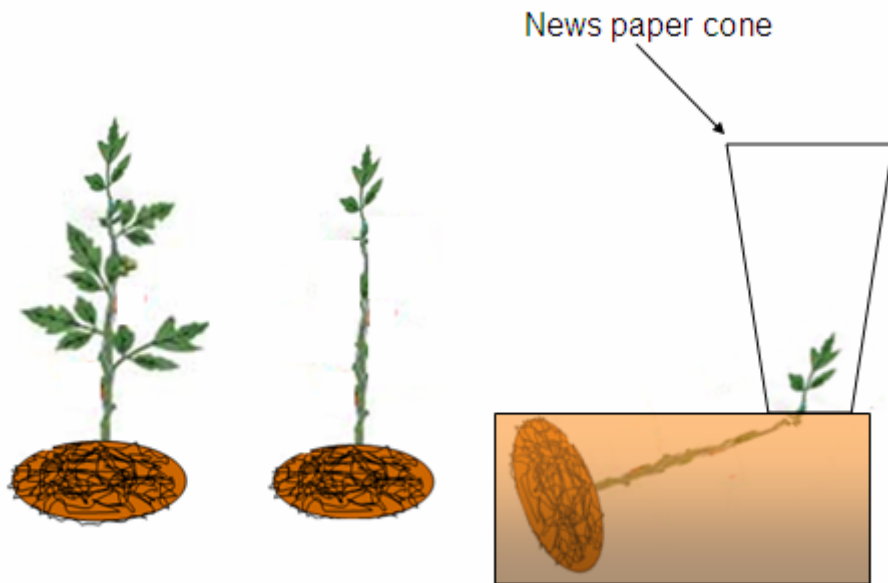
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Increasing roots to increase tomato production

When I was in Wal-Mart yesterday, I saw a gardening tip video that Mike Stokes had told me about last year. Seeing it again reminded me of it and I would like to pass along. When you plant tomatoes, it is best to lay them on their side when you plant them. You do that by stripping all the leaves off the stem up to the very top ones, then plant the tomato laying down on its side with the root ball and the stem laying in a little trench you have prepared for it. At the end of the trench then just carefully turn the last 4 or 5 inches of the plant up, with that tip sticking out. Then cover the root ball and stem with dirt. Put a news paper cone around the little tip poking out to protect it from cut worms until the plant is at least 10 to 12 inches tall. Planting the tomato on its side will produce 80% more roots for the

plant and you will have a much healthier plant and bigger production of tomatoes.



8 or 10 inch a tomato strip most leaves lay it in a trench and cover

You have to be careful when you lay the tomato plant in the trench with just the top sticking up that you do not break the top off.

The newspaper cone will keep cut worms from killing your little tender plant top. Cut take the news paper and make a cone out of it. Then place enough of the newspaper under the dirt that the wind wont blow it over. If you live in a really windy area, you might even want to put a little stake beside the cone and tie the newspaper to it (or you could do this in your green house like me where there is no wind... ha ha ha..)

Here are some pictures of me actually doing this type of planting:

Start out with some fairly large tomato plants in a pot (from the store or grow your own).



Now prune all the leaves off the sides except just the top ones.

So you just have a top left.



Now dig a nice trench about a foot long (depending on how big the plant is) and about 6 or 7 inches deep (deep enough to cover the root ball but about 4 inches)



Then cover it all up except just the very top part of the plant that you still have leaves on.



Now make a paper cone around the base of the little top that is still sticking out of the dirt to protect it from cut worms.



Now just keep going down the row and plant as many as you want to have.



And in a few weeks you will have a huge, healthy tomato plant.



Thanks Mike and Wal-Mart... We will look for a bigger tomato crop this year.

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