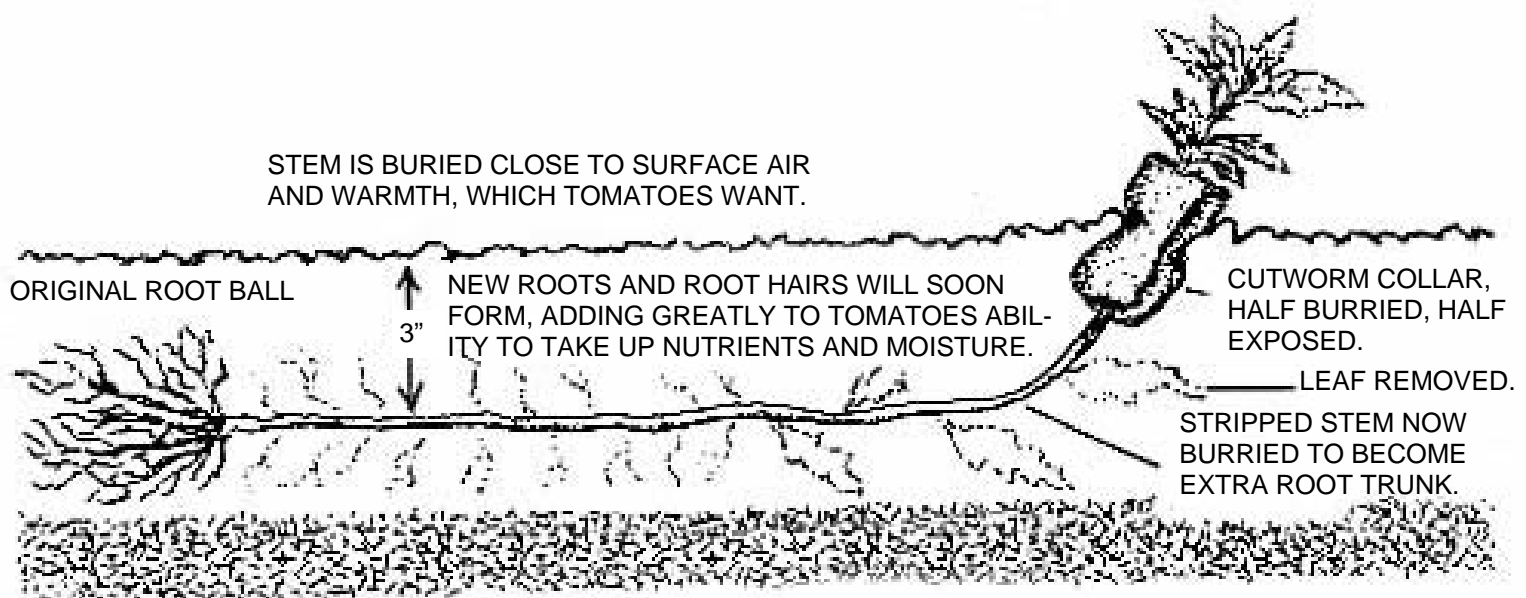


Trench Planting Tomatoes

Trench planting is a special technique for the successful tomato grower. It involves planting in the ground horizontally, and bending the stems so only the top portion is above the surface. Roots will develop along the length of the stem, forming a more massive root system, capable of supporting a larger plant. Also, more of the root mass will be near the surface, which means the roots will be warmer (this induces plant growth). Of course, having a substantial root system that reaches several feet below the surface is important for healthy plants, and trench planting is meant to contribute to that. A large healthy plant above the surface requires a correspondingly substantial root system below the surface.

We recommend that you bury the horizontal stem at least three inches below the surface. It is extremely important not to ever walk on the soil above the horizontal portion of the stem. Generally, walking too near your tomato plants will damage your root systems. It's good to have well defined walkways sufficiently close to the plants for tending and harvesting, but no closer than necessary. As a preventative measure against cutworms, we recommend putting a collar on your tomato plants of either aluminum foil or a tin can with both ends removed. This collar is buried halfway below the surface as the illustration below shows.

ONLY TOPMOST LEAF CLUSTER IS KEPT. STEM SOON STRAIGHTENS OUT. FRUIT BEGINS FORMING AT GROUND LEVEL WITHOUT WASTING STEM GROWING ROOM



IN DRY SUMMER PERIODS, ALL THESE EXTRA ROOTS (OPPORTUNITIES TO ABSORB AVAILABLE MOISTURE) MEANS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AVERAGE AND SPECTACULAR RESULTS.