How to Plant a Tomato Transplant

Tomatoes are one of the few garden vegetables that benefit from being planted deeper than they arrived in their pot.

Bury two-thirds of the stem, removing any lower leaves that would end up underground. Tiny hairs along a tomato stem will grow into roots once buried, giving the plant a stronger, more extensive root system.

1 CHOOSE A SUNNY SPOT

Pick a location that gets at least 6–8 hours of sun each day and has well-draining soil.



2 PREPARE THE SOIL

Loosen soil and mix in compost or well-rotted manure. Tomatoes like rich, fertile soil.



3 WATER THE TRANSPLANT

Water the plant in its pot well before planting to reduce transplant shock.



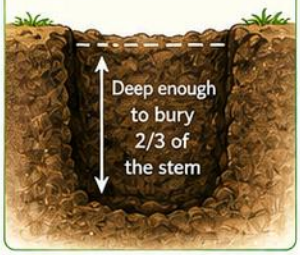
4 REMOVE LOWER LEAVES

Remove any leaves on the bottom two-thirds of the stem. These leaves would be buried.



5 DIG A DEEP HOLE

Dig a hole deep enough so that two-thirds of the stem can be buried. The hole should be just wider than the root ball.



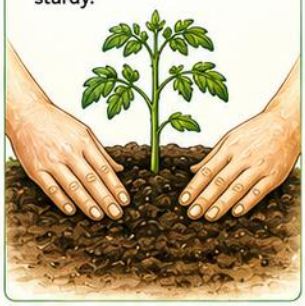
6 PLANT DEEP

Place the transplant in the hole and bury two-thirds of the stem. The top set of leaves should be above the soil.



7 BACKFILL AND FIRM

Gently fill the hole with soil and firm it around the plant so it stands upright and sturdy.



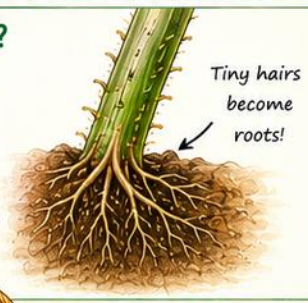
8 WATER THOROUGHLY

Water deeply right after planting to settle the soil and help the roots make good contact.



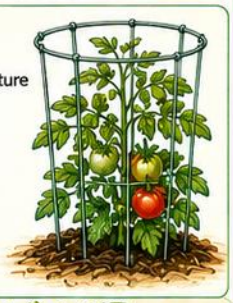
WHY PLANT DEEP?

Tiny hairs along the buried stem will grow into roots, creating a stronger, more extensive root system. This helps your tomato plant grow bigger, produce more fruit, and handle dry spells better.



AFTERCARE TIPS

- Add mulch around the plant to retain moisture and keep weeds down.
- Use a stake or cage soon after planting to support growth.
- Keep soil evenly moist, not soggy.
- Feed with a balanced tomato fertilizer every 2–3 weeks.





Plant deep. Roots strong. Plants thrive!

A little extra depth today leads to a bigger, healthier tomato harvest tomorrow.

