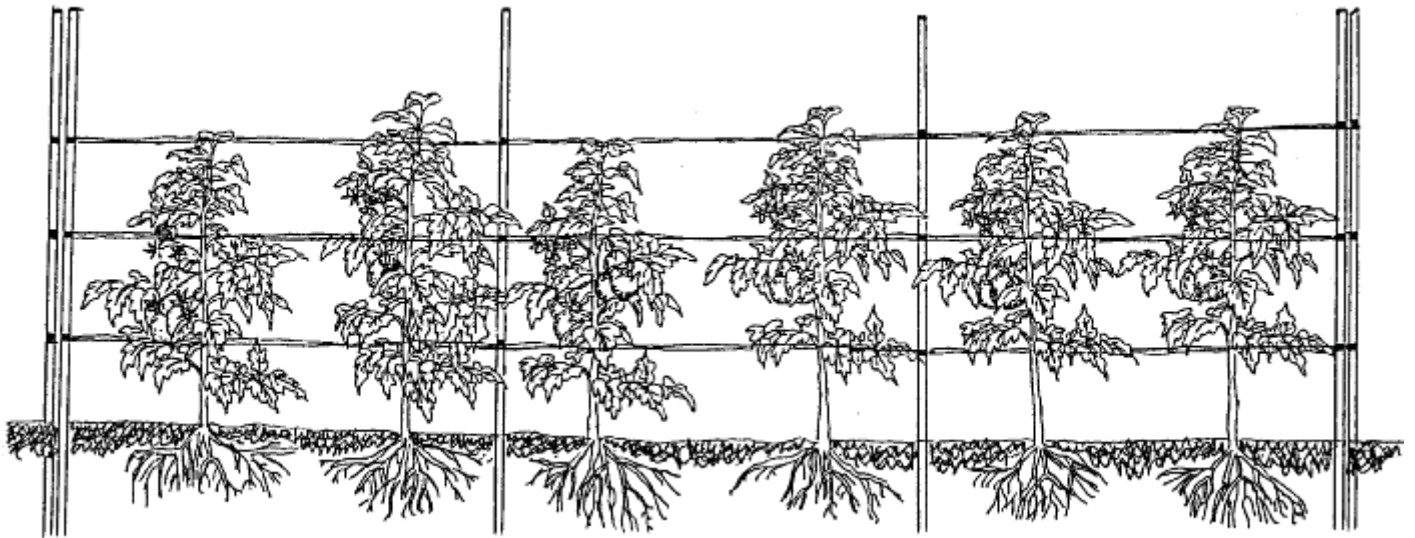




Basket Weave Tomato Support



- Use 4 ft. sturdy wooden stakes, with double stakes at the end of each row for strength.
- Set stakes six inches deep, one stake for every two plants, as soon as seedlings are transplanted.
- Begin supporting tomato seedlings after they have set the first flower clusters.
- Tie sturdy, untreated twine at one end of row, about 18" up from soil level. Weave twine between tomato plants, wrapping twice around each stake down the row. After reaching the end-stakes, weave twine back up the row in the opposite direction, alternating with the weave-pattern of the first strand so each plant stem is encircled by twine.
- As plants grow, weave another layer of twine every 6-8 inches to keep plants well supported. Four layers of twine will support most varieties.
- Remove suckers (new shoots that develop in the leaf axils) before they reach an inch in length.
- Leave the first sucker that grows below the first flower cluster, removing all others below the first flower cluster; allow suckers above first flower cluster to grow.



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