

II. Sanitation

- A. Minimize the onset of seed-borne disease; use clean, high-quality, treated seed and avoid tobacco use. Seed suppliers and farmers can treat seed using recommended methods involving, for example, hot water and/or chlorine.
- B. Minimize the transmission of disease; keep seedlings in a properly sanitized space and always wash hands before and after touching seedlings to prevent the mechanical spread of pathogens.
- C. Minimize the transmission of disease while grafting; always keep work-spaces clean with detergents and alcohols, wear gloves while grafting and use new or cleaned implements.

III. Grafting Process

- A. Select healthy rootstock and scion seedlings of a similar stem diameter.
- B. Using a new, clean razor blade, decapitate rootstock seedling with a horizontal cut approximately 5 mm below cotyledons.
- C. Bisect the truncated rootstock stem at its widest diameter to a depth of 4 mm.
- D. De-root scion seedlings with a horizontal cut approximately 5 mm above the cotyledons.
- E. Trim the cut surface of the scion seedling to the shape of a wedge containing sides approximately 4 mm long. (In the two cut process two diagonal cuts at a 65 deg angle are made that simultaneously separate the scion from its roots and forms the wedge).
- F. Insert the trimmed scion into the vertical slit of the rootstock.
- G. Secure graft with a clip.

IV. Healing and Acclimation

- A. Place new grafts in a climate controlled chamber with humidity at 90% (maintained by plastic), light reduced by 50 % (maintained by shade cloth) and a temperature range of 65-70 deg F (day) and 60-65 deg F (night) for 5-7 days. Bottom watering is suggested in order to reduce stress on the graft union and limit the chance of decay.
- B. Place week-old grafts in a second post-graft chamber with humidity at 50% (maintained by plastic), light increased by the removal of shade cloth and a temperature range of 65-70 deg F (day) and 60-65 deg F (night) for 5-7 days. Bottom watering is still important to reduce stress on the graft union.
- C. Place two-week-old grafts in an area with humidity, light and temperature ranges recommended for acclimating tomato seedlings prior to planting.

V. Planting

- A. Plant the grafted plant so that the graft union remains at least 2.5 cm (1 in.) above the soil line. A rule of thumb is "don't bury the clip," if it remains. Proper placement of the plant limits root formation from the scion.
- B. Grafts may develop shoots from the rootstock and/or roots from the scion. Observe plants after planting and prune, as needed.