

Your GRAFTED TOMATO Plant

Heirloom tomatoes are desired for their taste, shapes and colors, but they do not normally offer the same disease resistance as hybrids. Borrowing an age-old technique used successfully with fruit trees, heirloom tomatoes can be grafted onto more disease resistant rootstocks, resulting in stronger, more productive heirloom tomato plants.

The technique of grafting involves taking two compatible varieties and creating a new plant – without genetic manipulation. Because no chemicals are used in the process, grafting lends itself to organic vegetable production.

One plant serves as the *rootstock*. This variety is chosen for its robustness – strong growth and disease resistance. It provides the roots of the final plant. The second plant, called the *scion*, is chosen for its fruit. It provides the top of the final plant. This HEIRLOOM tomato plant has been grafted to a special organic hybrid rootstock, Estamino F1. *

For best performance:

1. Plant the graft well ABOVE the soil level.
2. Remove any roots that may form above the graft as they will negate the disease resistance provided by the Estamino rootstock if they get established.
3. Remove any suckers that may appear below the graft.
4. Space the plants at 2-3 feet apart.
5. Plant in full sun.

*Offers high resistance to: Tomato Mosaic virus, Leaf Mold 1-5, Verticillium Wilt (*Verticillium albo-atrum*, *Verticillium dahlia*), Fusarium Wilt 0-2, Fusarium Crown and Root Rot. Intermediate resistance: Root knot (*Meloidogyne arenaria*, *Meloidogyne incognita*, *Meloidogyne javanica*), Tomato Spotted Wilt virus.

