



PRUNING INDETERMINATE TOMATOES

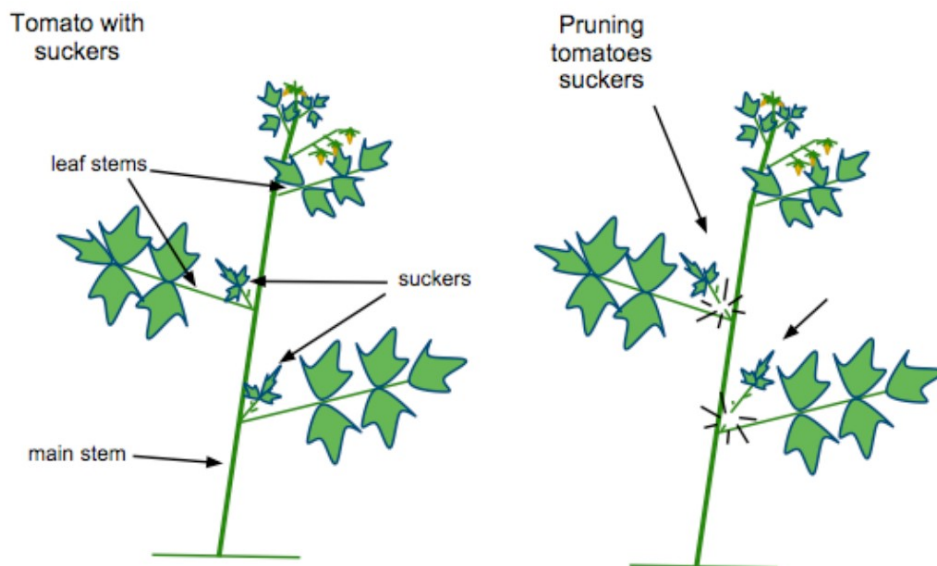
There are 2 different types of tomatoes: **determinate** and **indeterminate**. Indeterminate tomatoes grow an undetermined number of tomatoes and branches, and need pruning. Determinate tomatoes are more compact, have a set number of leaves and fruits, and *should not* be pruned.

WHY PRUNE?

Each sucker has the potential to produce more flowers, more leaves and more suckers. If left alone, your tomato will become a bushy, lush plant, but will bear few fruits. Pruning indeterminate tomatoes is necessary to encourage healthy fruit production.

Pruning is surprisingly simple. Pinch off the suckers along the main vine. **Be careful not to pinch off the top of your plant!** Doing this every 1-2 weeks is fine. If you miss one, and it begins to produce small fruits, leave it. The plant has already invested a fair amount into that branch. Pruning doesn't have to be perfect, just enough to bump up fruit production.

Look up your variety in a seed catalog or on the back of the seed packet to find out whether it is determinate or indeterminate. Buy tomato starts that let you know what variety it is. A good resource for this is the **Johnny's Selected Seeds** website or catalog where you can look up the variety and receive information about it. They have a huge selection and likely will have the variety you are looking for.



Suckers grow between the main stem and the leaf stems. To prune, pinch suckers off at the base. Be careful to make a clean break and not to strip away plant tissue from main stem.