

PRUNING

Tomato Plants

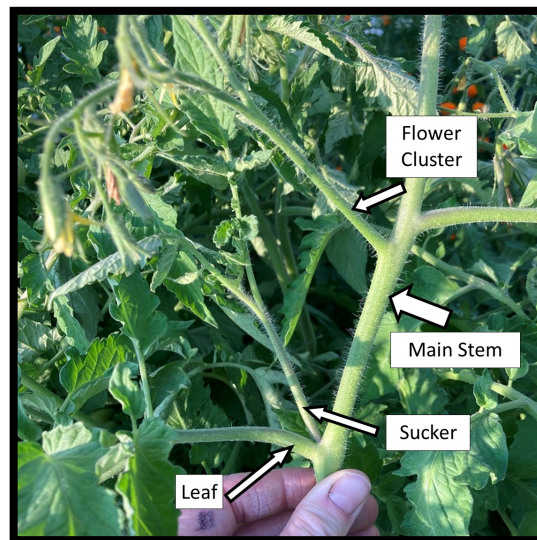


How to PRUNE TOMATO PLANTS

Lesson learned from the 8/3/2021 tour at Good to Grow Farms in Evanston.

A single stem of a tomato plant will produce leaves, suckers, and flower clusters (see pictures)

- Leaves collect sunlight to produce energy for the plant to grow.
- Suckers grow in the axis between a leaf branch and the main stem.
- Flower clusters develop into fruit (tomatoes) after pollination.



Leaves and flower clusters are good productive growth! Suckers are not!

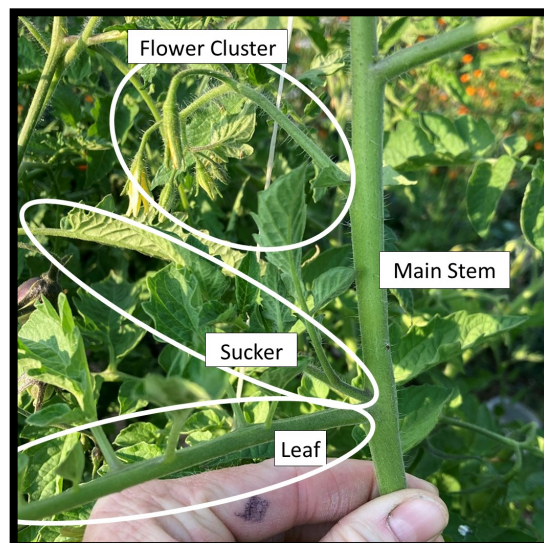
Suckers produce secondary stems which compete with the main stems for resources. If suckers are allowed to grow they use precious energy to make more leaves, flower clusters, and suckers, which clutter the plant, weighing it down and allowing less light to reach the leaves.

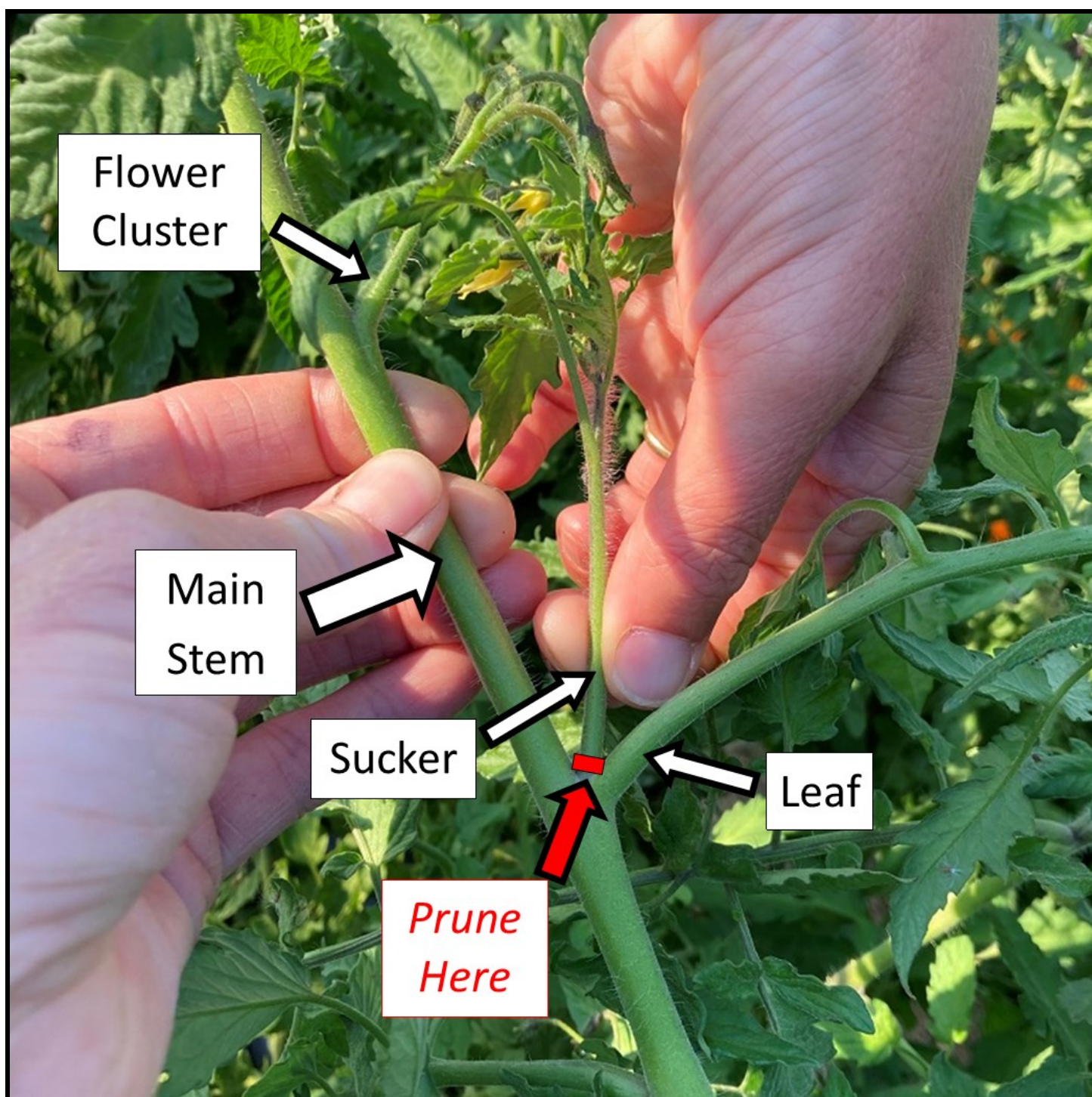
To prune a tomato plant, cut off the suckers between the axes of the leaves and the main stem.

“A properly pruned and supported single-stem tomato plant presents all of its leaves to the sun. Most of the sugar produced is directed to the developing fruit, since the only competition is a single growing tip. The result is large fruits that are steadily produced until frost.” -Frank Ferrandino

This article goes into more detail about pruning, indeterminate vs determinant growth forms, supporting and staking

tomato plants. <https://www.finegardening.com/article/pruning-tomatoes>





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