



TOMATOES IN A WELL?

Yes! This trick will give your plants a jump start on the season, making use of the sunny warm days and rising soil temperature, but protecting them from unsuitable night temperatures that drop below 45 degrees.

- 1. Take a 5-gallon plastic bucket or nursery container and cut the bottom off.**
- 2. In your prepared & amended bed, dig a deep hole so only the top 2-3” of the pot will show above ground.**
- 3. Amend the bottom of the hole with a streptomyces amendment (to ward off root-knot nematodes) and a mycorrhizae amendment (to grow strong roots), and a higher-nitrogen dry organic fertilizer (to grow more leaves!)**
- 4. Plant your tomato as usual, pinching off the lower leaves & settling the plant into the soil.**
- 5. Sink your container around the tomato into the ground to form the well.**
- 6. As you backfill around the outside of the pot, sprinkle in a little more fertilizer at varying depths to feed your plant in the future.**
- 7. Water your newly planted tomato with seaweed solution.**
- 8. Keep some row cover & rocks handy: on nights when temperatures are expected to drop below 45 degrees, fold the row cover over several times to make a thick cover over the top of the pot/bucket, weigh down the corners with rocks, and if possible, cover early in the afternoon to build up some heat. Wait to uncover until after temperatures rise above 50 degrees or leave covered for the day if you can't get to it.**
- 9. As your tomato grows, pinch off a few of the lower leaves, gently pull the pot up, and firm some soil around the bottom of the plant. Continue feeding with a quality liquid organic fertilizer to encourage your tomato's growth.**
- 10. Eventually, you'll remove the entire pot, and place a cage around the plant. It may only look 6” tall, but it will have a foot or more of roots underneath! Keep your row cover nearby, you can wrap the cage if we get a cold night later.**

Good Luck & Have Fun