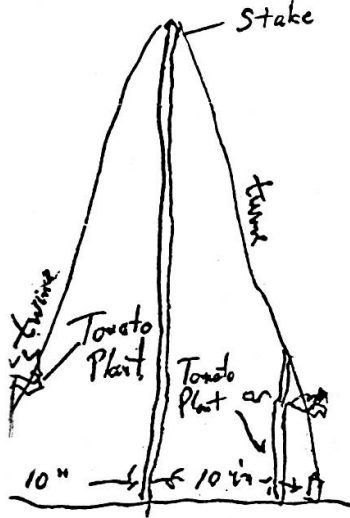


Volante Tomatoes

Growing Tomatoes – Best to plant in double rows (about 20" apart) so that fruit is shaded by foliage. This prevents or helps prevent cracking.

Stakes should be about 4' above ground and 18" below ground, or 5 ½ to 6'. If you have plants already growing, drive a stake between two plants in a row. You can let each plant grow two branches so you drive a stake between each two plants or between all plants.



A tomato plant has a main stem which you will want to grow and suckers which you should pinch off, except the first main one [... missing text ...] almost as large as the main stem and as vigorous. It may not be the first branch but could be the 2nd or 3rd but generally the first one. Pinch off all others about 1" from the main stem. Also the flowers continue to grow a branch so pinch it off about 1" beyond the flowers.

Spray the first flowers (on some plants at least) with an hormone spray such as is sold in most seed and garden supply stores. These have different trade names but are good and produce earlier yields of larger more numerous fruits. Also, the plants need heavy fertilizing.

Our Draper Lab friend Peter Volante gave my Dad a copy of a copy of a handwritten letter containing these instructions from his uncle, of Volante Farms in Needham. I think Dad used this, but I have not. – Pete Matthews Jr – <https://3nt.xyz> – July, 2020