

### Experience the Hanging Tomato Planter

I received one of these upside-down planters last year from a well-meaning neighbor. In the past we have exchanged plants and seeds. She had purchased two of these unusual planters and wanted me to “share in the fun”.

My husband and I purchased a tomato plant from our Master Gardener Plant Sale, and proceeded to put it into the upside-down planter. This requires that you put a collar around your tomato plant and insert it into the bottom end of the planter. Then you carefully fill the planter with potting soil or planting mix up to a pre-marked depth. As you do this, the planter becomes heavier and heavier, so it takes at least four hands to properly get the job done.

Once the soil is in, there is another ring that goes around the top, keeping the planter open, and keeping the shape somewhat round. There are notches where the hangers go. We carefully completed the planter and hung it up on a pergola, where we inserted a drip line for watering.

After a few days of hanging in the sun, I noticed that the tomato plant had started growing back up, toward the sun. As we all learned in grade school, plants have a tendency to grow toward the light source. I wondered if the tomato was going to cooperate with the idea of growing down from the planter, or if we would find the weight of the fruit would cause the plant to break off. Only time would tell.

After a few weeks there were numerous blossoms on the plant, and a lot of growth. As the tomatoes formed and grew, their weight caused the branches that they were on to slowly unbend, and the fruit would then hang down. It appeared that the planter was a success!

There are benefits to this system:

1. The plant appeared healthy.
2. There were no noticeable insects.
3. There were no noticeable diseases.
4. Fruit production was steady.

The bottom line of this experiment is that I have once again put up the upside-down planter, and this year I am trying a different variety of tomato. I have placed the planter once again on our deck, and can watch as the plant grows and develops the fruit. I understand that there are now similar planters for strawberries and that may be my next project!

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Master Gardener

You might want to go onto the internet to view the following sites for information on how to make your own upside-down planter.

5. [Upside-down Tomato Planter](#)
6. [How to Plant Hanging Tomato Plants](#)
7. [How To Make An Upside Down Tomato Planter](#)