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| **Lesson Title and Summary** |

**Pruning Tomatoes Workshop**

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| **Learning Goals/Objectives (measurable outcomes)** |

Increase understanding of the connection between local food and individual and community health and wellness.

Increased recognition of their opportunity to increase food security in their communities.

Increase know how of the following specific techniques: this is where volunteers should add in specific things they want students to know how to do.

* Know the difference between determinate and indeterminate tomatoes
* Can prune tomatoes for healthy yields
* Get hands-on knowledge of how to prune a tomato
* Gain knowledge of necessary tools and supplies and sanitation
* See demonstration of different trellising and caging for tomato plants
* Get a brief overview of grafted tomatoes
* Get hands-on experience pruning a tomato plant

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| **Target Grade(s)/Age(s) and Adaptation for other Grades/Ages** |

Adults

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| **Lesson Time** |

1.5 hours

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| **Preparation, Space Requirements, Personnel needed, Supply List** |

* Posters on pruning tomato plants
* Poster on staking tomato plants
* Organic field with determinate and indeterminate tomatoes that have not been pruned
* Trellis configuration in Organic field
* Various tomato cages for demonstration
* A few grafted tomatoes for demonstration
* Hand pruners
* Latex gloves for anyone who wants them
* Buckets for collecting prunings

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| **Lesson Plan** |

**Intro (at main building):** (5 minutes)

Introduce team and explain the activity; go through local food priority and it’s importance to community and individual health and wellness, explain the role that everyone can play in helping to secure the food chain, and go through the specific topics that students will learn to grow healthy, productive tomatoes.

**Tomato Pruning Overview (at main building):** (10 minutes)

Determinate vs. Indeterminate

Why it is good to prune

What happens if you don’t prune

Overview of staking, caging, trellising

**Divide into groups of 8 to 10:** (5 minutes)

Travel to Organic Field

**Lesson Steps and Activities (in field in small groups):** (1+ hour)

* Point out what a sucker looks like and where it forms.
* Point out first flower cluster and show which suckers can be left (one to two above first flower cluster).
* Demonstrate how to remove sucker (snap small ones off with fingers, use clippers for bigger ones).
* Talk about frequency of pruning (almost weekly in early season).
* Demonstrate low branches and how they should be removed or cut back from touching ground.
* Mention topping a tomato plant and when it may be good to do that (late in the season).
* Talk about sanitation if a plant looks diseased (and that plant should probably be removed if no improvement in short term).
* Show trellis method in field and discuss other staking methods (use personal experience if applicable).
* Ample time for students to practice on plants with supervision.
* Be prepared to answer questions on general tomato plant care (water, fertilizer, disease, pests, etc.)
* Field questions that arise.

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| **Vocabulary** |

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| Determinate tomato |  |
| Indeterminate tomato |  |
| Semi-indeterminate tomato |  |
| Sucker |  |
| Flower Cluster |  |
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| **Evaluation** |

Rate your knowledge before and after the presentation on the following statements:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |  Not at all knowledgeable  |  Somewhat  knowledgeable  |  Knowledgeable  |  Very knowledgeable  |
| ***Prior*** to the workshop series  |   |   |   |   |
| ***After*** the workshop series  |   |   |   |   |

How knowledgeable are/were you about the connection between local food and individual and community health and wellness before coming to class and after coming to class?

How knowledgeable are/were you about the opportunities we all have to increase food security communities before and after coming to class?

Specific techniques for successful production of tomatoes. Evaluate knowledge gained on the specific learning objectives using the same retrospective pre and post survey.

* Know the difference between determinate and indeterminate tomatoes
* Can prune tomatoes for increased yields
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* Get a brief overview of grafted tomatoes
* Get hands-on experience pruning a tomato plant