Growing and Preserving Awesome Tomatoes

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Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
BAYFIELD COUNTY

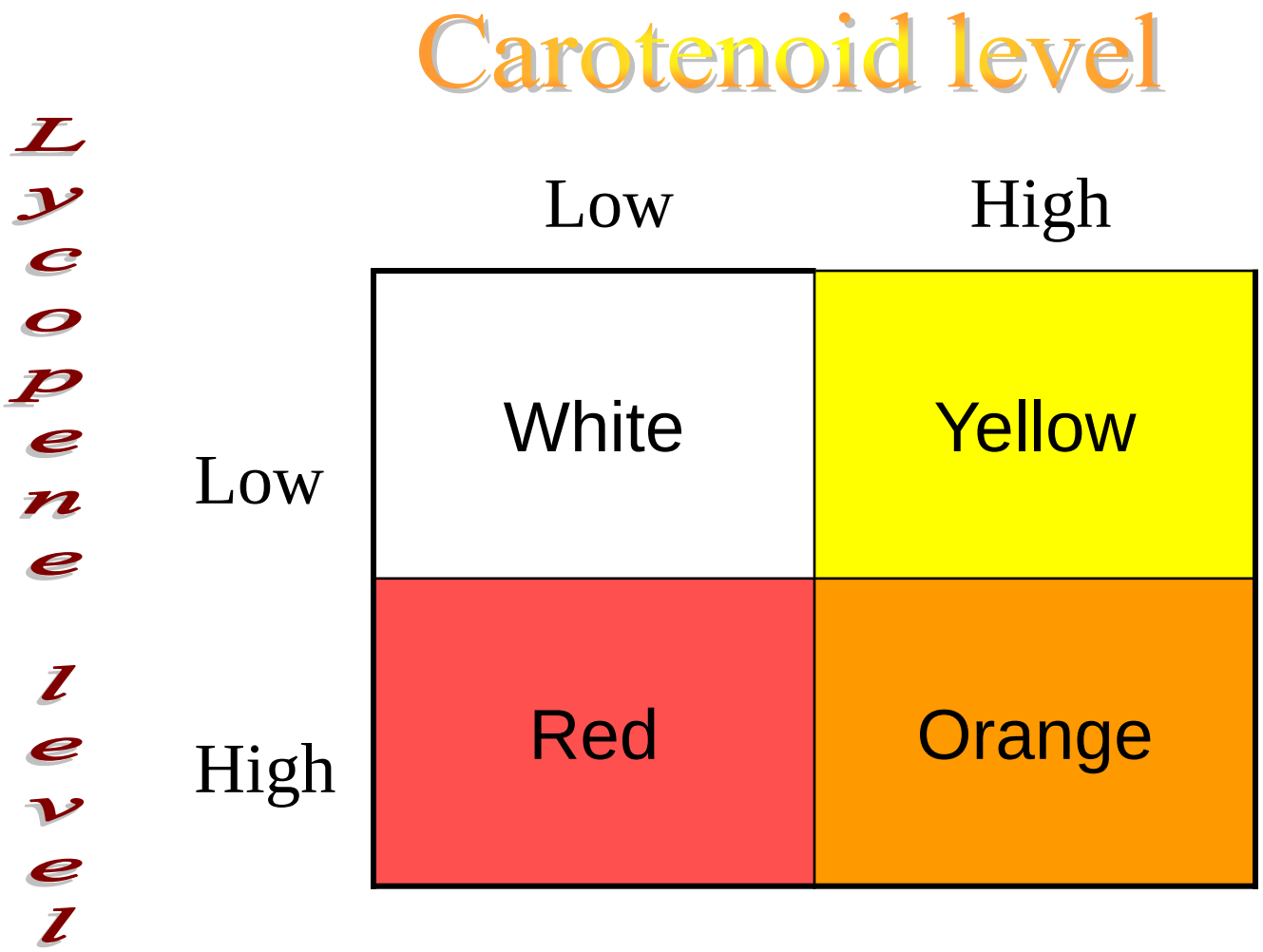
Tonight’s Presentation

- Choosing varieties
- Changing the way you grow tomatoes
- Preserving tomatoes
- Questions

Choosing A Variety

- Indeterminate vs Determinate
- Heirloom vs Hybrid
- Late vs Early
- Taste
- Variety performance varies by environment (GxE)

Fruit Color


Carotenoid level
Low
High
Lycopene level
Low
High
White
Yellow
Red
Orange

Disease Resistance

Tomato Resistance Codes	
(AS)	*Alternaria* Stem Canker
(CRR)	Corky Root Rot
(EB)	Early Blight
(F)	*Fusarium* Wilt (Race 1)
(F2)	*Fusarium* Wilt (Races 1 & 2)
(F3)	*Fusarium* Wilt (Races 1, 2 & 3)
(FOR)	*Fusarium* Crown and Root Rot
(GLS)	Gray Leaf Spot
(LB)	Late Blight
(LM)	Leaf Mold
(N)	Nematodes
(PM)	Powdery Mildew
(TMV)	Tobacco Mosaic Virus
(ToANV)	Tomato Apex Necrosis Virus
(ToMV)	Tomato Mosaic Virus
(TSWV)	Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus
(TYLCV)	Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus
(V)	*Verticillium* Wilt

HR: = High Resistance IR: = Intermediate Resistance

Celebrity


BHN 871


Mountain Fresh Plus


BHN 589


BHN 1021


Skyway

From: Johnny's Seeds

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CROP SUMMARIES

TOMATOES

Slicers, Heirlooms and breeding lines

PEPPERS

Bell, Corno di Toro, Snack and Milder Hot.

SQUASH

Small, Standard and Specialty Butternut

ONION

Red and Yellow Storage

CARROTS

Orange Bunching and Storage

KALE

Green and Red Curly

LETTUCE

Little Gem and Butterhead

MELONS

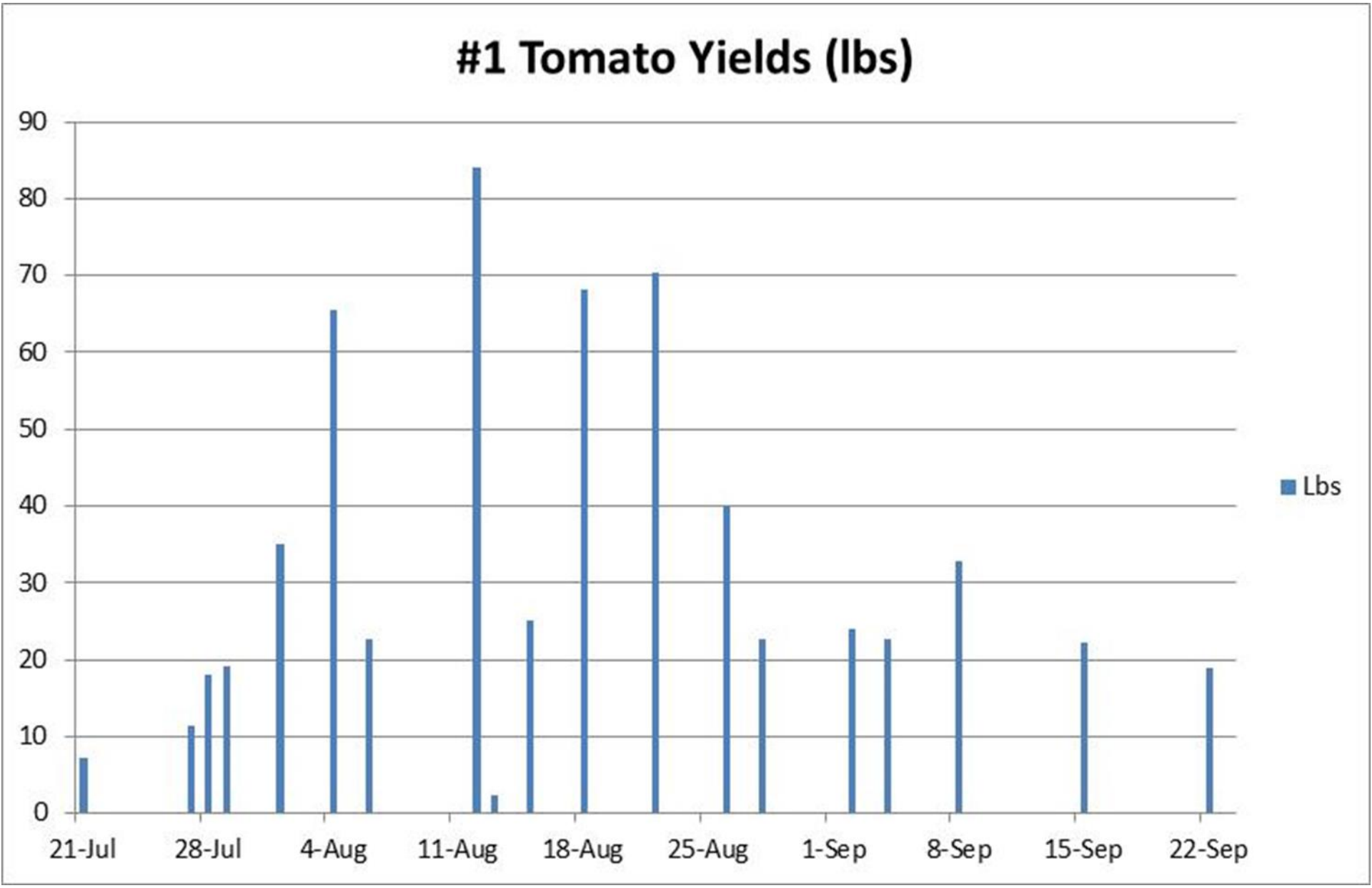
Cantaloupe

UW-Madison Seed to Kitchen Collaborative

Changing How You Grow Tomatoes

Is This You?


SALTER
Brecknell


#1 Tomato Yields (lbs)
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
21-Jul
28-Jul
4-Aug
11-Aug
18-Aug
25-Aug
1-Sep
8-Sep
15-Sep
22-Sep
Lbs

1.6 lbs/sq ft


August 5


August 5


July 15

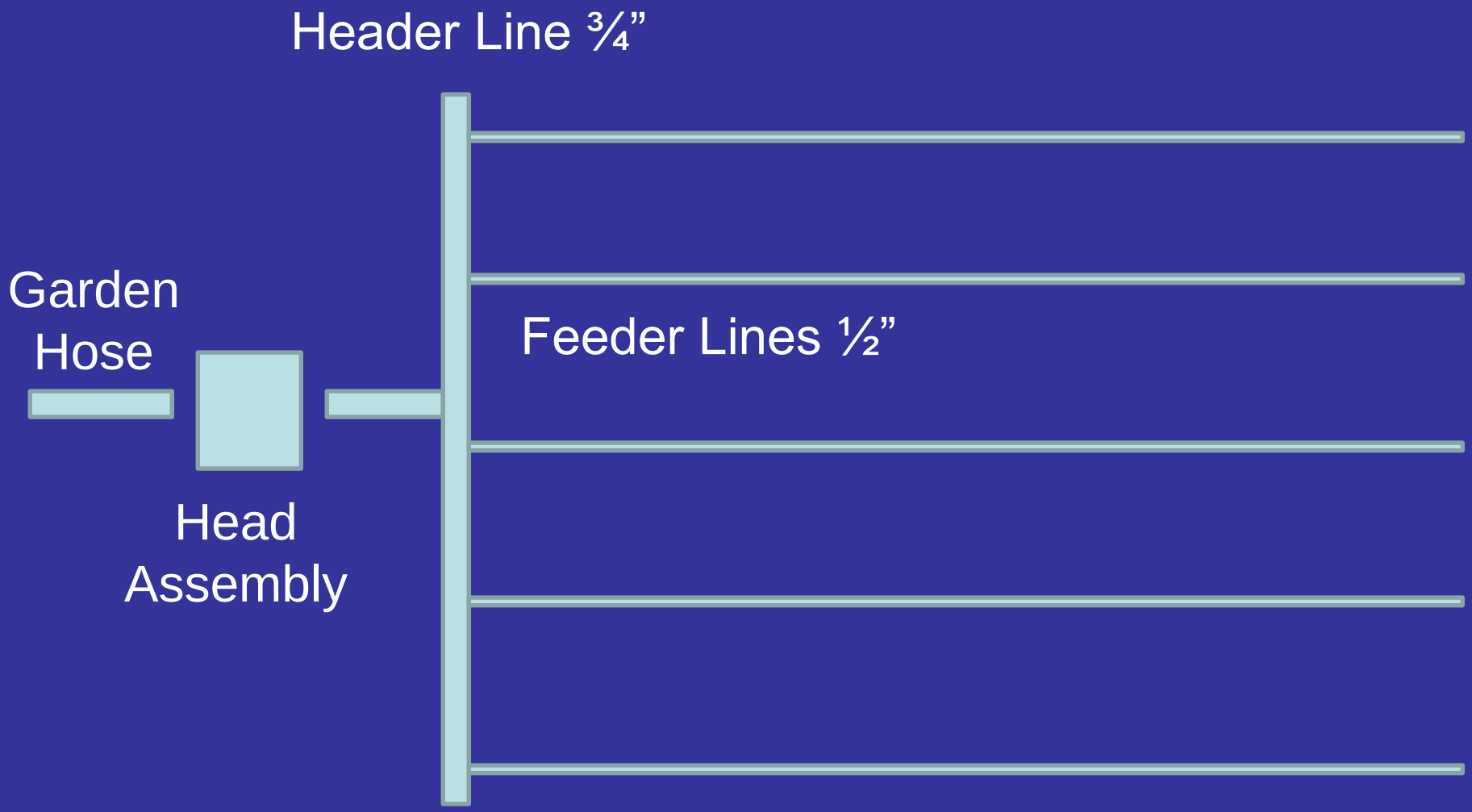
1. **Shop the diversity and buy your own seeds**

2. Start Your Own Plants
Or Contract For A Flat (or two)

- Start in one-inch cells (72 cell flats)
- Transplant into 4-inch pots
- 60 to 80 degrees is optimal
- Harden for 1-2 weeks
- Plant deeper than in pot

3. Use re-usable landscape fabric to conserve moisture and reduce spore splashing

4. Use Drip Irrigation



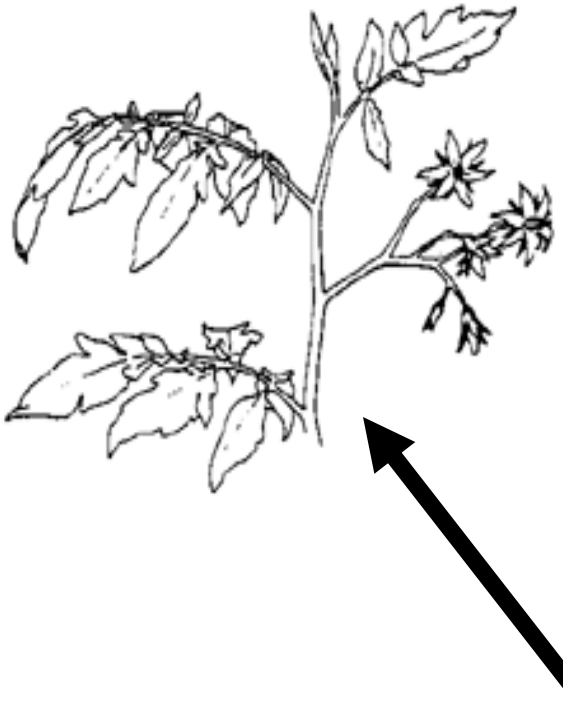
Drip Tape or Poly Tube Feeder Lines

Drip irrigation works for pots, too

5. Focus on training and pruning

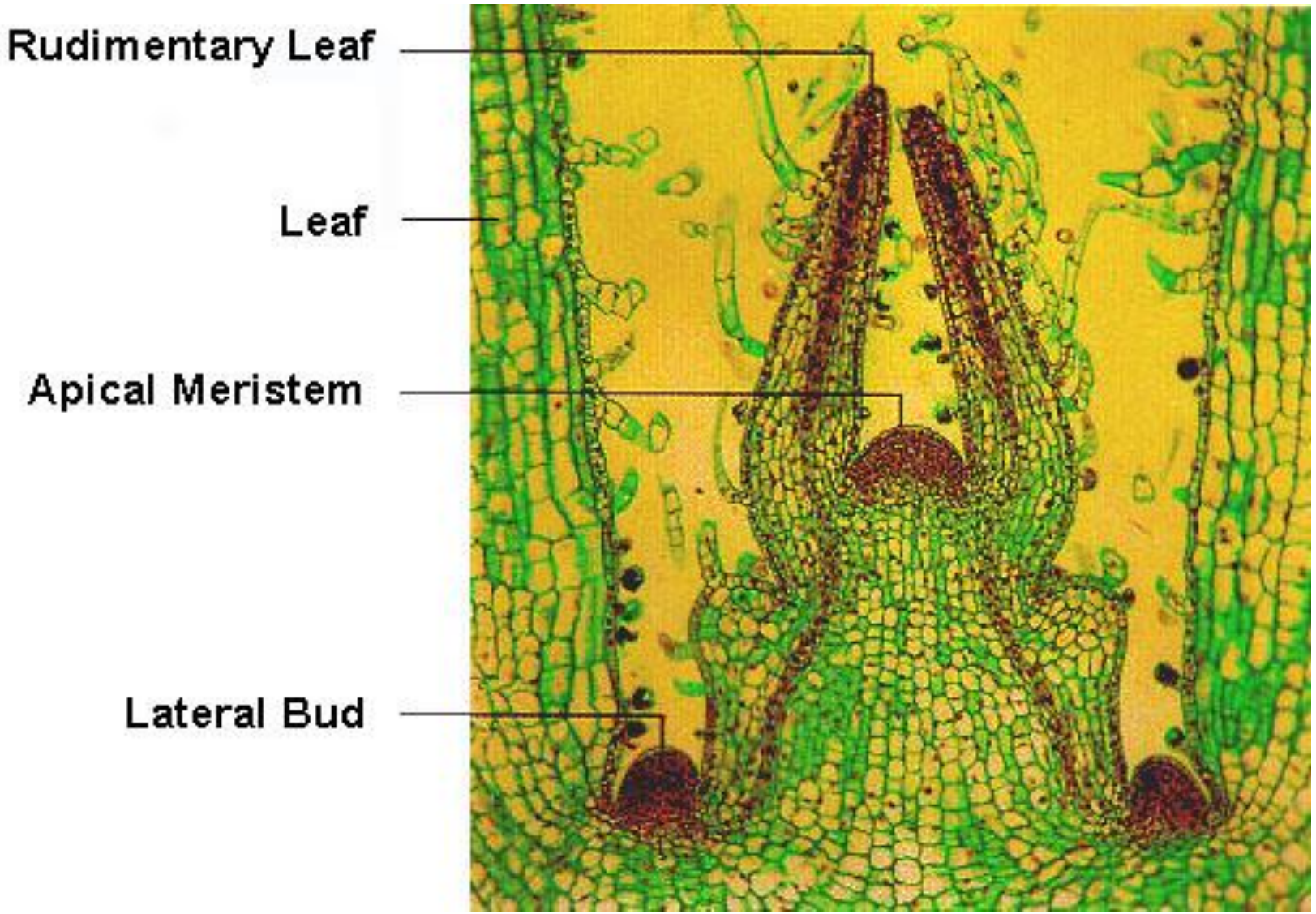
Plant Growth Habits

Determinate



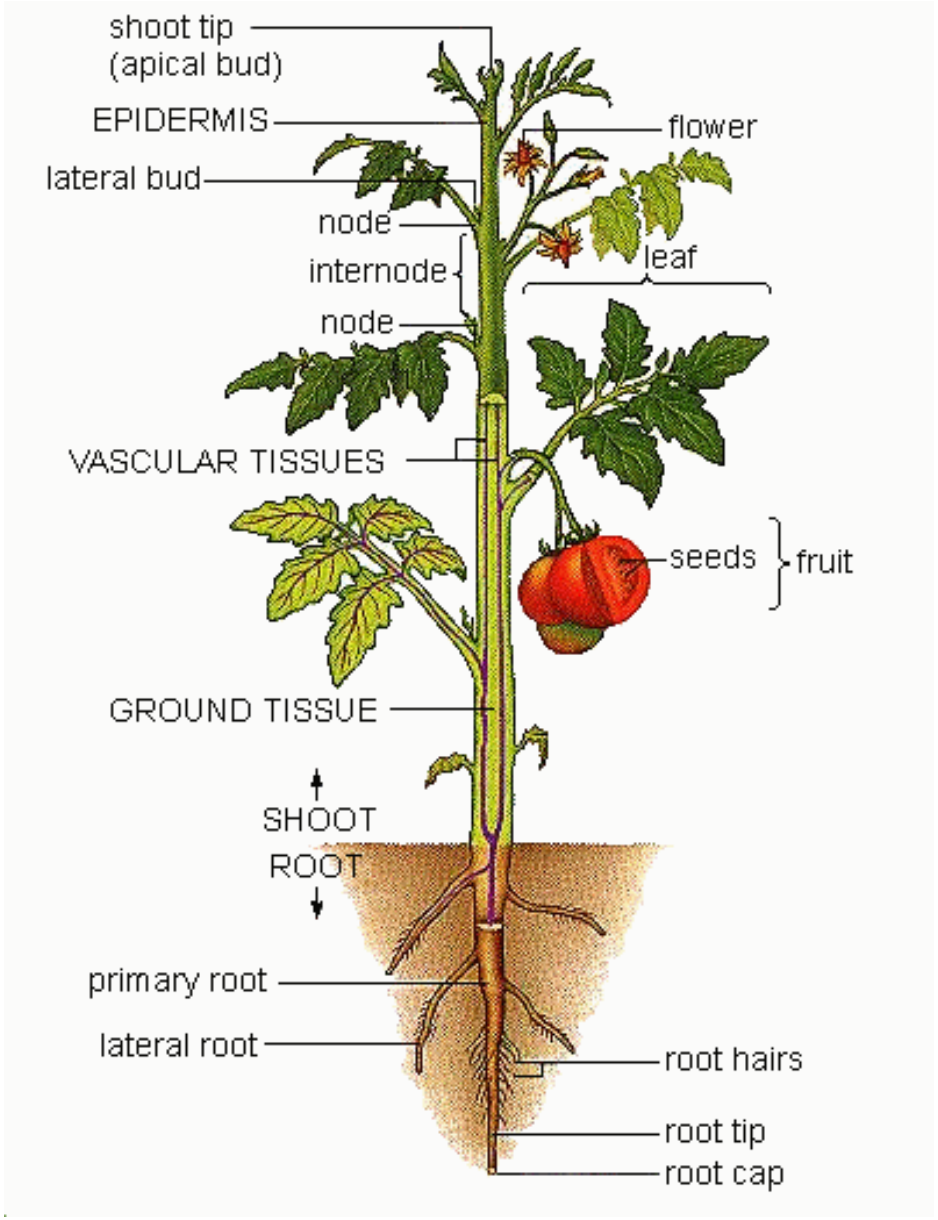
Indeterminate

The Meristem

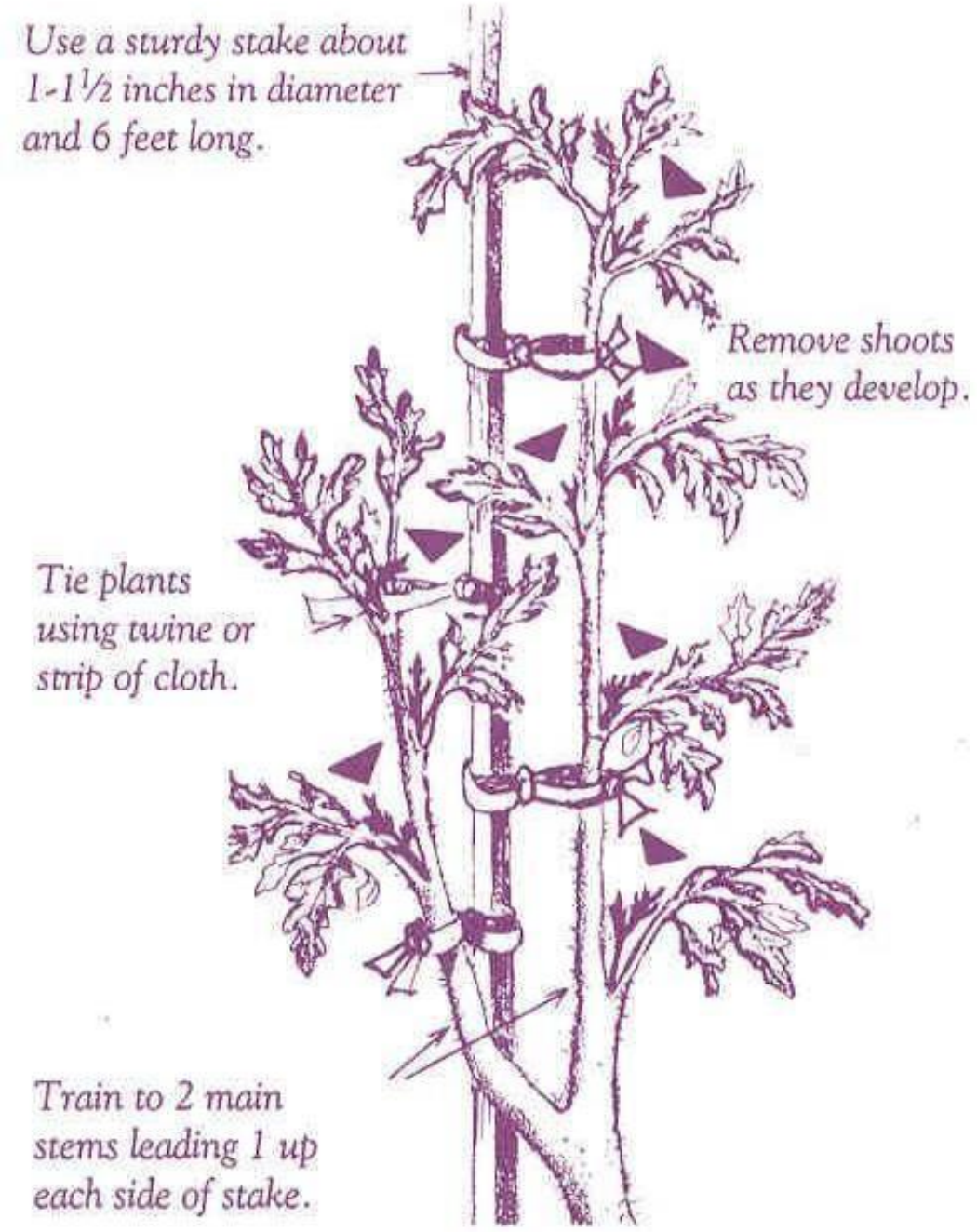


The Meristem

All of the diverse plant structures we see originate from the meristem.



Suckers (aka “laterals”) can be problematic



Pruning and Staking

- Leave one or two main stems
- Remove suckers between leaves and main stem
- Remove suckers before they get 2 ½ inches long

Pruning and Trellising

- Staking
- Caging
- Single-String
- Florida weave


Horizontal Trellis

Horizontal Trellis (Florida Weave)

Basket Weave


Vertical Trellis


Outdoor Vertical Trellis

Soil and Fertility

- Test your soil for P and K
- Add organic matter
- Avoid manure (unless it is very well-rotted)
- Add fertilizer at planting (if necessary)
- Add fertilizer when first fruits are golf ball size
- Mulch 2-4 inches

Fertilizing Tomatoes

Soil Test

Sandy soils low organic matter ~6 oz./plant 10-10-10

Heavy soils with higher organic matter ~4oz. 5-20-20

DO NOT over apply nitrogen

- promotes vegetative growth
- decreases fruit production
- increases chance of diseases

- 8-32-16 or 6-24-24 when soil is being worked (1lb per 100 sq ft)
- 3 lbs per 100 sq ft calcium nitrate when first fruits are formed