



The Achiltibuie Garden

...let's grow

## Tomato planter

*For growing 2 tomatoes by the traditional cordon method.*

### Kit contents:

1 planter with closed grommets	minipropagator
1 bracing strip	7 litres <i>Gold</i> growing medium
2 pyramid pots	2.5 litre 3-part tomato feed set (A, B & C)
1 funnel	2 tomato hooks
1 planter fleece	1 packet tomato seeds
1 long planter spacer	
30ml measure	

### Raising Seedlings

1. Assemble the minipropagator according to the instructions attached to it. Sow individual tomato seeds spaced about 1" (2.5cm) apart into the minipropagator. The seeds should be placed on the surface of the *Gold* then given a light covering of more *Gold*.
2. Place the fleece cover loosely over the top of the propagator and keep it in a warm position (20-25°C) until the seeds begin to germinate. Check the propagators daily after the fourth day from sowing, as it is very important to place germinated seed in a good light position as soon as the first seeds germinate. There is no need to remove the fleece covering, which will maintain humidity while allowing light and air to get to the tender young seedlings.
3. Allow the seedlings to grow two full pairs of "true leaves", before transferring them to the pyramid pots in the tomato planter kit following the method described below. (True tomato leaves are serrated and hairy, as opposed to the first pair of smooth edged seed leaves)

### Setting up the Pots.

1. Make sure that the capillary matting wicks are threaded through the slots in the pyramid pot bases so that the two ends protrude equally below the pots. Thread the tomato hook twine down through one of the slits in the base of the pot to one side of the wick, then make a large retaining knot beneath the pot base. Completely fill the base of the pyramid pot with *Gold* growing medium then feed the tomato hook through the round hole in the pyramid pot top. Clip the pyramid pot top on to the base.
2. Using a scoop (you can make one from an old plastic bottle cut in half) pour in *Gold* to approximately 2 cm below the top of the pyramid top. Do not compress the *Gold*.
3. Slide the bracing strip onto the end of the planter, then position it at the middle of the planter. Place a pot at each end of the planter and pour plain water into the base of the planter until the level is just below the bottom of the pots. The *Gold* is supplied almost dry to ensure freshness; for this

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reason it will take 2 to 3 litres of water to initially wet up the pyramid pots. Place the black spacer between the pyramid pots under the bracing strip.

4. Gently lift the seedlings from the minipropagator, together with any adhering *Gold*, by placing a teaspoon or pencil well under the root system as a lever and hold only the seed leaf of the young plant. Never touch the fragile stem or the true leaves of the seedling, to avoid permanent plant damage. Carefully plant into the neck of the pyramid top and pour *Gold* around it. Tap gently to settle the *Gold* around the young plant ensuring that the seed leaves are planted level with the top surface of *Gold* which should completely fill the pyramid pot top. This will allow strong adventitious roots to emerge downwards from the very top of the pot and provide a firm plant anchorage.

5. The planter set should be sited in a light sunny position. Attach the tomato hook emerging from the top surface of the *Gold* to a very secure point as high as possible above the planter set in such a way that the leading shoot can be wound gradually around the soft string.

6. From now on water the planter with tomato liquid feed made from the concentrates following the instructions provided separately. It is important to check regularly that there is always some feed solution in the base of the planter.

## Dilution rates for different stages of plant growth.

### Stage 1: from seedling stage (fully expanded seed leaves) to the third true leaf stage:

Desired EC =approx. 3.0 mS/cm above the EC of make-up water

Make a solution using EQUAL QUANTITIES OF TOMATO A & TOMATO B with water as follows

Volume of diluted solution required	Amount of Tom A	Amount of Tom B	Amount of Tom C
1 litre	10ml	10ml	----
5 litres	50ml	50ml	----
25 litres	250ml	250ml	----

### Stage 2: from 3rd true leaf stage to 1st fruit set (small fruit the size of a pea can be seen):

Desired EC =approx. 5.0 mS/cm above the EC of make-up water

Make a solution using 2 PARTS TOMATO A, 1 PART TOMATO B & 1 PART TOMATO C with water as follows:

Volume of diluted solution required	Amount of Tom A	Amount of Tom B	Amount of Tom C
1 litre	20ml	10ml	10ml
5 litres	100ml	50ml	50ml
25 litres	500ml	250ml	250ml

### Stage 3: the remainder of the fruit production season:

Desired EC =approx. 3.0 mS/cm above the EC of make-up water

Make a solution using EQUAL QUANTITIES OF TOMATO A & TOMATO B with water as follows

Volume of diluted solution required	Amount of Tom A	Amount of Tom B	Amount of Tom C
1 litre	10ml	10ml	----
5 litres	50ml	50ml	----
25 litres	250ml	250ml	----