

Florida Weave

- What is it?
- Why use it?
- Equipment Needed
- How to do it
- When to do it

What is the Florida Weave?

- Trellising technique designed for speed – quick to set up, easy to maintain. Can be used with both Determinates and Indeterminates
- Also known as the “Basket Weave” or “Stake & Weave Training System”
- Sandwiches the plants between two “walls” of twine

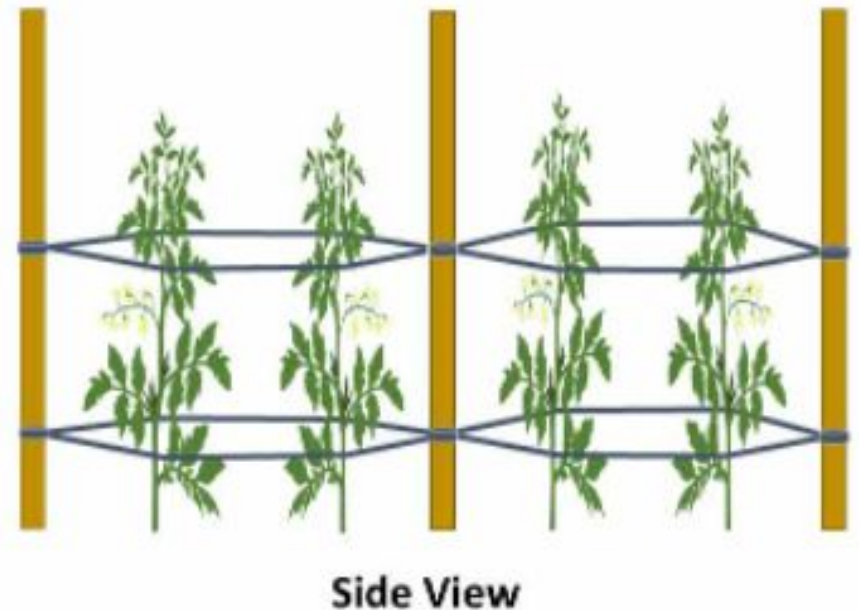


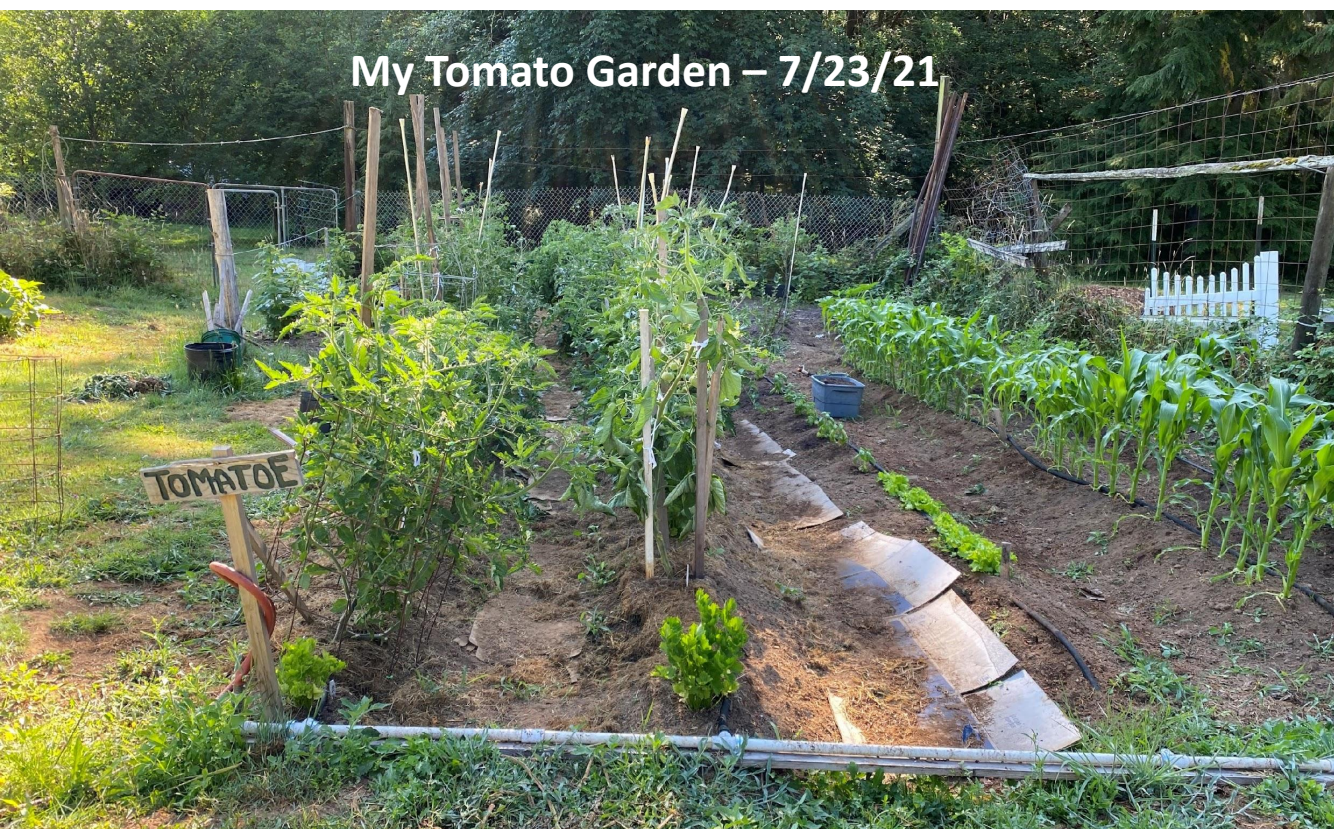
Photo from
<https://ofags.com/how-to-trellis-tomato-plants/>

Why use the Florida Weave?

- Good for growing many tomato plants in rows
- Fewer stakes needed than staking each plant
- Improves air circulation, thus reducing disease
- Holds plants upright and off the ground
- Easier harvest – easier to find and access fruit
- Fast and easy to set up
- Reusable – and easy to store between seasons, too.
- Relatively inexpensive; can use everyday supplies around the yard

Why use the Florida Weave? - My example!

It's a jungle! Falling stakes, falling vines, falling tomato cages, crowded & pinched tomato stems, can't prune plants in cages, poor air circulation, trouble finding & accessing fruit.



Equipment Needed

Stakes

- Strong enough to hold plants off the ground
- Should have a non-slip surface to “grab” the twine
- Good options: steel fence T-posts, rebar, 2x2 wooden stakes

Twine

- Needs to resist weathering (look for UV resistant)
- Needs to resist stretching (very important!)
- Needs to bind well to the stakes
- Good option: **Nylon or Polypropylene** “baler” twine

Optional – Homemade Wand

- Serves as an extension of your arm. Less bending.
- Use 12-36 inch PVC pipe or wooden stake/dowel with holes drilled in each end
- Pull twine thru one end, out other

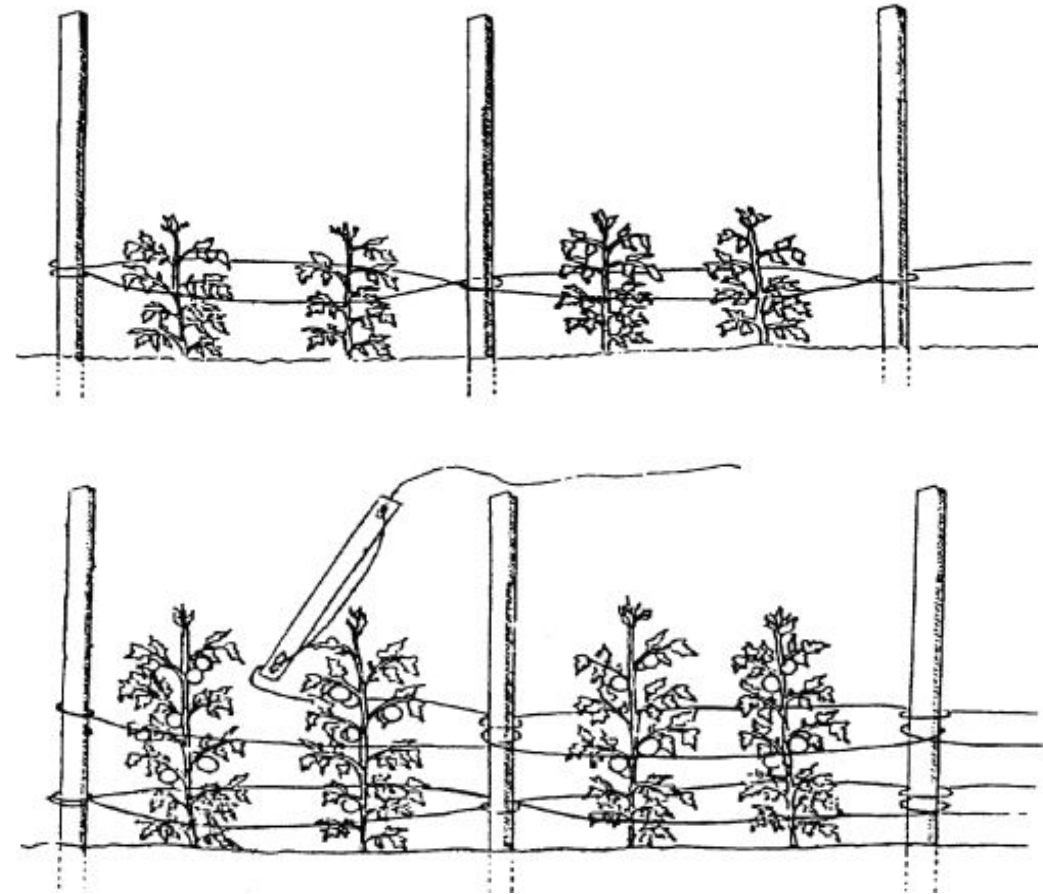


How to do it: Preparation & Staking

- Plant Preparation BEFORE you start
 - Prune
 - Plant tomatoes in a row, leaving 2 ft. between each plant. Don't cheat!
- Drive stakes into Ground
 - Drive stakes 12-18" into soil between every other plant (or if needed, between each plant). Go further down for more strength/stability.
 - A stake is typically driven between every two plants, but you can do closer (between each plant) or further away (between every 3 plants)
 - Stakes need to be tall enough for the type of tomato plants you are growing (6-8 ft.)

How to do it: Weaving

- First stringing - approx. 2 inches below the first blossom
- Create the “weave”:
 1. Tie twine to one of the end stakes, approx. 6-8” from ground
 2. Next, take twine past the plant (or plants), pull tightly, and wrap around the next stake (at the same height)
 3. Repeat the process to the end of the row
 4. At end of row, wrap or tie twine around the end stake.
 5. *Now go the opposite direction:* Bring twine back on the other side of the row (at the same height), wrapping around each stake, and tie off again at the end of the row.
- Add stringings as plants grow. Each subsequent stringing - 6-8” above preceding string
- Variations – figure 8 between each plant, 1 or 3 plants



When to do it

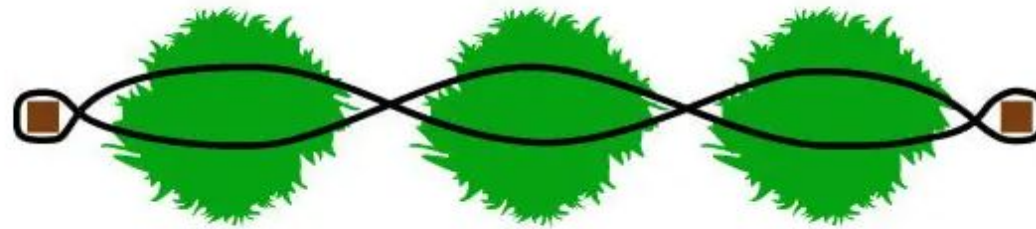
EARLY, EARLY, EARLY! Learn from my mistakes!

When plants are 12-15" tall – but before plants fall over

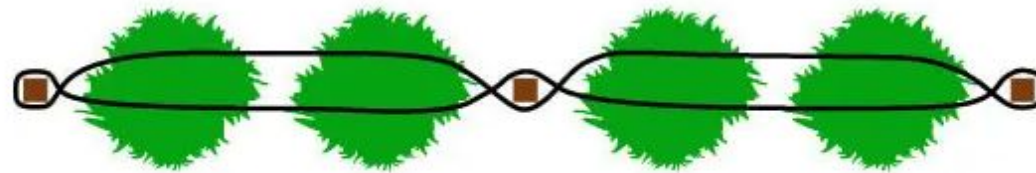
When foliage is dry to prevent potential spread of bacterial diseases

TIP: Remove suckers from plant as it grows (indeterminates only) to keep them from getting out of control.

Example: GardenBetty.com



Aerial View of Florida Weave



<https://www.gardenbetty.com/trellising-tomatoes-with-the-florida-weave/>

Example:
4theluvofgardening.blogspot.com



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