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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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(612) 373-0710

Horticulturist O. C. Turnquist:

(0:40)

Don't plan on pruning and staking your tomatoes if you have plenty of room in your garden.

Space them at least three or four feet apart each way. In pruning, you will remove potential fruiting laterals and also run the risk of more problems from sunscald and blossom end rot.

You can place your plants 18 to 24 inches apart in rows three feet apart if space is a problem. Place a six-foot stake one-and-a-quarter by one-and-a-quarter alongside each plant at planting time. You may damage the root system by doing it later.

As lateral branches begin to develop, select two or three and prune all others. Tie these shoots loosely around the plant and tightly to the stake as they grow and develop.

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Thinning Vegetables

(0:25)

University of Minnesota horticulturist Orrin Turnquist suggests thinning your early seeded vegetables, such as carrots, beets, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, onions and radishes.

Carrots should be one-and-a-half to two inches apart. Spacing for others is two to three inches for beets, three to four inches for kohlrabi, four to six inches for leaf lettuce, two to four inches for onions and one to one-and-a-half inches for radishes.

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