

# TRELLISING & STAKING



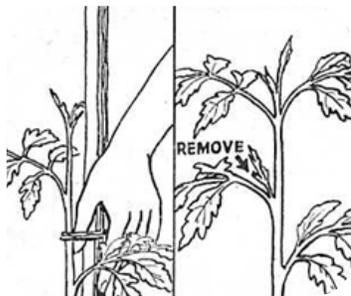
Climbing and vining plants including pole beans, peas, cucumbers, tomatoes, and melons that are supported by stakes or trellis conserve space and help make harvesting easier. Below are some great options for supporting your vining and climbing plants. Methods are listed from easy to most difficult.

## SINGLE STAKE METHOD

Pound a solid 6 foot stake (or taller) approximately 1 foot into the ground about 3 inches from the plant and loosely tie a single vine to the stake using twine or string. Stakes should be inserted as early as possible after transplanting the plant into the garden to avoid damaging the roots. As the plant grows, attach new growth to the stake every 6 inches. This method works best on plants pruned to a single vine such as tomatoes (see side bar tomato tip).

## TOMATO CAGE

Tomato cages are circular wire cages that can be placed around tomatoes or other small fruit vining plants. Be sure to install cages before plants are more than 6 inches tall. This method works for pole beans, peas, cucumbers and tomatoes. Cages are available for purchase at most hardware and garden stores. For added flair they can be bought or painted in bright colors.



## TOMATO TIP

As plants grow, they produce small shoots called "suckers", which grow where each leaf joins the stem. Pruning the suckers before they establish themselves will reduce the amount of branches and therefore make the plants easier to manage and encourage fruit growth.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Tomato stakes and trellinets are available as an additional resource, for more information call 313-757-2635.

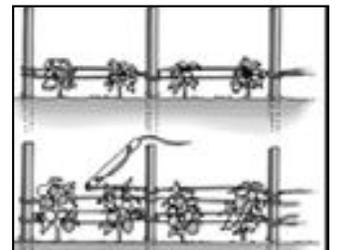
## TRELLINET AND STAKES

Trellinet is plastic netting with large square holes intended for supporting vining and climbing plants. To install, pound 2 solid stakes 1 foot in the ground no more than 6-8 feet apart. Secure trellinet to stake with staples, nails, screws or by tying it to stakes with twine. Install trellinet 3 to 6 inches from the vining plants. This method works best for smaller and lighter fruiting crops such as pole beans, peas, and cucumbers.



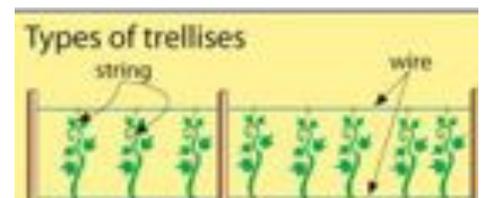
## STAKE AND BASKET WEAVE

Pound 2 solid stakes 1 foot in the ground no more than 6-8 feet apart in line with a row of plants to be supported. Use a spool of twine and tie one end to the base of the first stake in the row. 'Weave' the twine in front of and behind plants as you move down the row (see image to right for illustration). This method works best on tomatoes. Make sure to keep adding twine and weaving up as the plants grow. You should plan on weaving about 1-2 times per week.



## STAKE AND WIRE TRELLIS

Put two solid stakes 1 foot in the ground no more than 6-8 feet apart in line with a row of plants to be supported. Attach a wire at the top of each post and secure with a screw. Tie twine to the wire above each plant and let it hang down touching the plant. Tie twine loosely to the plant with a short piece of twine and braid the plant stem with twine as it grows. This method works for pole beans, peas, cucumbers, tomatoes, and melons.



This Resource Guide is prepared by Keep Growing Detroit for participants in the Garden Resource Program. For more info please contact 313-757-2635, [keepgrowingdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:keepgrowingdetroit@gmail.com) or visit our website at [WWW.DETROITAGRICULTURE.NET](http://WWW.DETROITAGRICULTURE.NET)