



955 Benton Ave., Winslow, ME 04901 • Phone: 1-877-564-6697 • Fax: 1-800-738-6314  
Email: [service@johnnyseeds.com](mailto:service@johnnyseeds.com) • Web Site: [Johnnyseeds.com](http://Johnnyseeds.com)

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The plants you receive may be stressed from shipping — water them as soon as possible and keep them in a protected environment. If you will be transplanting within a few days, harden off the plants as you normally would. If you must wait to transplant, you may want to transfer them into larger cell flats or containers.

## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Grafted tomato plants must be planted with the graft union above the soil line. Though it is common to plant tomatoes deeper than the original soil line in order to encourage formation of roots along the stem, this practice will cause the less-disease-resistant top variety to come in contact with the ground where soil-borne pathogens may infect the plant through the top variety.

The easiest way to plant with the graft union above the soil line is to plant in the ground with the same soil level as was in the tray. Or, you can locate the scar tissue or grafting clip where the 2 varieties were joined together. Ensure this graft union is visible above the soil line when you plant. If there is a grafting clip still on the plant, there is no need to remove it, it will fall off on its own over time as the plant grows.

It is a common misconception that the superior disease resistance of the rootstock transfers into the top, scion variety. This is not true; the rootstock retains its own resistance package and the scion variety retains its own resistances, or lack thereof. If any portion of the scion comes into contact with soil infected with a pathogen that the top is not resistant to, it may become infected through contact or rooting into infected soil. It is best to think of the rootstock acting as a barrier to pathogens coming up from the soil. If the graft union is buried, or the scion tomato plant flops on the ground and roots into the ground, it is then susceptible to whatever pathogens are in the soil.

Aside from the different planting method, grow grafted tomatoes as you would any other tomato. Remove suckers that develop from below the graft union. These are from the rootstock variety and will not yield good tomatoes. You can expect the scion variety to be more vigorous and grow faster than the same variety on its own roots. This means it likely will grow up a trellis faster, and may need to be pruned or suckered more often than you are used to. This faster rate of growth should turn into a larger plant over the course of the season and more yield in the long run.

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