



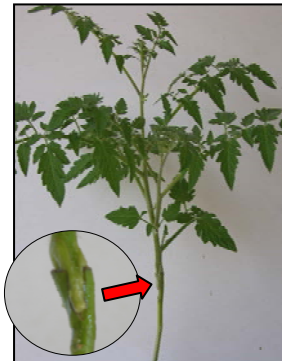


## Tomato Grafting

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By grafting onto any resistant solonaceae rootstock, tomatoes can be produced in an area infested with bacterial wilt. The most commonly used resistance solonaceae rootstock is Wild Malay Eggplant. Contact DPIFM regarding suppliers of Wild Malay Eggplant seeds. It must be remembered however that the grafted part is still subject to all the insect pests and diseases which normally attack the leaves, stems, fruit and growing points of any tomato plant.

			
<p><b>Step 1:</b> Sow wild malay eggplant rootstock into pots 2 - 3 weeks earlier than the tomatoes as tomatoes grow faster.</p>	<p><b>Step 2:</b> Cut off the rootstock at a height where it is the same thickness as the tomato. Remove leaves and split down the centre of the rootstock stem to a depth of about 15 mm.</p>	<p><b>Step 3:</b> Cut off the growing tip from the tomato and trim back most of the large leaves.</p>	<p><b>Step 4:</b> Cut a wedge shape in the tomato by cutting down each side.</p>
			
<p><b>Step 5:</b> Insert the tomato cutting into the rootstock and ensure they make good contact.</p>	<p><b>Step 6:</b> Place a peg or clip around the union to hold it in place.</p>	<p><b>Step 7:</b> Cover the graft with a snaplock plastic bag to maintain humidity and keep in a shadehouse. Leave plant in shade house until the graft calouses over then remove peg or clip.</p>	<p><b>Step 8:</b> The grafted area must be kept above the soil or mulch and stake your plant to prevent contact with the soil where the wilt disease is found.</p>

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