TRELLISING certain crops is a great way to save space in the garden, reduce disease, add support, increase production, make harvesting easier, + enhance the overall health of your plants!

WHAT CAN I TRELLIS?

Trellising works best with fruiting crops. Many crops are naturally sprawling + can be grown vertically with a little support. Trellis:

- Bitter melon
- Cucumbers
- Eggplants
- Melons
- Malabar Spinach
- Pole beans
- Peppers
- Tomatoes

WHEN DO I TRELLIS?

Put up your trellis before the plant needs support. It is really difficult to trellis once your plants are big. Use a correct spacing, pruning + trellising from the start of the season.

HOW DO I TRELLIS?

There are many different trellising methods. You can use found or purchased materials, + existing fences. It is important to start off with a strong structure to support your plants. They seem small now, but they will get big! The metal tomato cages + other prefab trellis are often not strong enough + can make it difficult to harvest + prune.

TYPES OF TRELLISING

1. THE FLORIDA WEAVE for tomato, pepper + eggplants:

This technique uses strong posts (6ft u-posts or 2x2's pounded at least 1.5ft in the ground)
2. WIRE OR PLASTIC MESH + POSTS:
Vertical trellising works well for pole beans, bitter melon, + cucumbers.
1. Pound in a U-post at an angle at the each end of the bed.
2. Space tall posts about 8 feet apart (or less)
3. Weave the netting over the tall posts
4. Weave string through the top row of the trellis + wrap around the top of each post to keep the netting from slipping as crops

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**KNOTS**

Learning a couple handy knots makes your trellis easy to tighten + take down.

**THE TRUCKER’S HITCH** is one of those knots that, once you learn it, you wonder how you got along without it! This combination of knots allows you to pull string as tight as a guitar string.

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1. Slippery half-hitch in middle of rope
2. Make a turn around a bar, cleat, etc.
3. Finish with one or two half hitches (overhand knots).