

How to Repair Broken Stems on Plants

This technique works for lots of plants. I repair broken tomato and pepper stems all the time. Unfortunately, I have plenty of splints to photograph. Here's how to repair broken plant branches.



Hold the two broken pieces together and wrap with electrical tape (black stretchable plastic tape). Next place a pencil or popsicle stick along the broken stem, and then tape the pencil to the broken branch to create a splint... I use electrical tape because it will stretch as the branch grows. If the plant is fully grown, you can use duct tape. You need to do this within 12 hours of the break occurring, although I have had successful graphs after two days.

If a branch breaks at a joint where you can't use a straight splint, I cut an angled splint with a jig-saw. You can also tape the pencil bridging between the main stem and branch.

Any of these splice techniques will work regardless of whether it is a split or a complete break. The bridge splice shown in the second photo is one that I didn't catch for four days, and as you can see by the fruit, it didn't even slow down tomato growth.