



How to grow Doorstep Tumbling Tomatoes

Tumbling Tomatoes: what's not to like?

- ◇ Simple to grow
- ◇ Space saving
- ◇ Accessible
- ◇ Tasty, very tasty

A sheltered, south facing Scottish patio will happily accommodate the needs of the many tumbling tomato varieties now available.

Grow in a basket or pot, no staking or pinching-out required—only regular watering and a weekly feed.



Summer long tasty tomatoes

The first tomato fruits can be ready to harvest in 80 days from seed sowing, or quicker if young plants from a supermarket, nursery or garden centre are used. Fruits are juicy and sweet, with each plant producing a month's continuous supply over the summer months.



The ingredients

We have used:

- ◇ 15L/30cm diameter pot (any container of this volume will do)
- ◇ General purpose compost
- ◇ Tumbling Tomato Plant variety 'Cherry Falls'

Step 1. Use a good quality general purpose compost, (one recommended for young plants would be ideal). Break up clumps of compost to ensure a friable structure for the young plants' roots to grow into.

Fill the pot four-fifths full, pressing firmly with your palm to level off the compost, knocking out any excess air holes as you go. Scoop a little hole the size of the tomato plant's pot out of the filled compost.

Gently squeeze the pot to encourage the plant's compost root ball out of the pot, catching the leafy plant carefully so as not to damage its stems and leaves.

Step 2. Pop the root ball into the ready made hole in the compost, then firmly press the compost in and around the plants stems to ensure a secure fit.



Step 1



Step 2

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How to grow Doorstep Tumbling Tomatoes *continued*



Marigolds



Step 4 Watering



Step 5 Feeding

TIP:

Tumbling tomatoes do well in hanging baskets — a great way to introduce height interest to the patio—and free up space for seating!

Marigolds. Although not scientifically proven, we find it worthwhile to plant marigolds beside tomato plants as the marigold scent appears to disguise that of the tomato. The marigolds are nibbled by aphids instead of the tomato plants! Not only are they an attractive addition to the planter, marigolds are simple to grow from seed, making for a Spring time table top activity in preparation for the late spring planting of tomatoes.

Step 3. Plant in 1 or 2 wee marigold plants either side of the tomato plant. Remember to dead head (nip off) any flowers once they start to fade as this will encourage the plant to make more flowers all summer long.



Step 3

Step 4. Water regularly ensuring the compost is kept 'just damp' at all times. It is particularly important for consistent watering during the formation and ripening of the fruits, to ensure that the skins do not 'burst'. The plants will soon bush out and start to spread and hang over the sides of the pot or basket.

Step 5. Once the first flowers appear, start feeding weekly with a liquid 'tomato' feed. Many supermarkets stock this type of plant food in their 'seasonal' aisle. Fruits will soon develop and ripen—how quickly depends on sunlight hours and temperatures. Then enjoy the month long harvest—remembering to continue to water and feed to ensure continuous fruiting.



Tomato fruits developing



Tumbling toms in a basket



Bumper crop

Try growing a salad box — it does great on a sunny doorstep too!

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