



Tomato in a Bag

Turn a bag of potting mix into a container garden!

Materials

- 1 cubic foot bag of potting mix (unopened)
- 1 tomato seedling (works best with smaller-fruited types) *
- fork
- scissors

Instructions

1. Lay the unopened bag of potting mix flat and carefully make holes with a fork in 15-20 spots throughout one side.
2. Turn the bag of potting mix over and cut a single 4-6" slit in the center of the other side. Make sure an adult is available for guidance or to make the cut in the bag.
3. Reach inside the bag and push the potting mix aside to create a planting space.
4. Carefully remove seedling from its container.
 - a. When working with seedlings in plastic cell packs, it helps to gently press in the sides of the cell and push up from the bottom first. Handle seedlings by the leaves, not the stem.
 - b. Biodegradable pots should be peeled away as much as possible prior to planting. While they will eventually break down, they'll inhibit root development initially.
5. Gently untangle outer roots in order to stimulate outward growth.
6. Plant tomato seedlings as deep as possible, leaving 3-4 sets of leaves above the soil line and the rest buried. Lay taller seedlings sideways in the bag and reach inside to make sure roots and stems are covered.
7. Water thoroughly and place in a warm area (60-80°F) with at least 8 hours of sun.

* Consider trying this with other crops. The number of seedlings suggested per 1 cubic foot bag is in parentheses: broccoli (4), peppers (4), zucchini (1), cucumber (2-3), basil (12).

Need gardening advice? Visit our website: extension.umaine.edu/gardening.

No endorsement of products or companies is intended, nor is criticism of unnamed products or companies implied.