

**Here's a "jump start"
summary of how
easy it is to plant
your new
TOPSY TURVY™**



1.

To set up easy access in planting and filling your TOPSY Turvy™, temporarily use a lightweight nylon or cotton cord. Hang the bag itself down close enough to you to easily be able to fill and plant it. You can move your new TOPSY Turvy to its permanent place later after installing the furnished screw hook into solid wood.

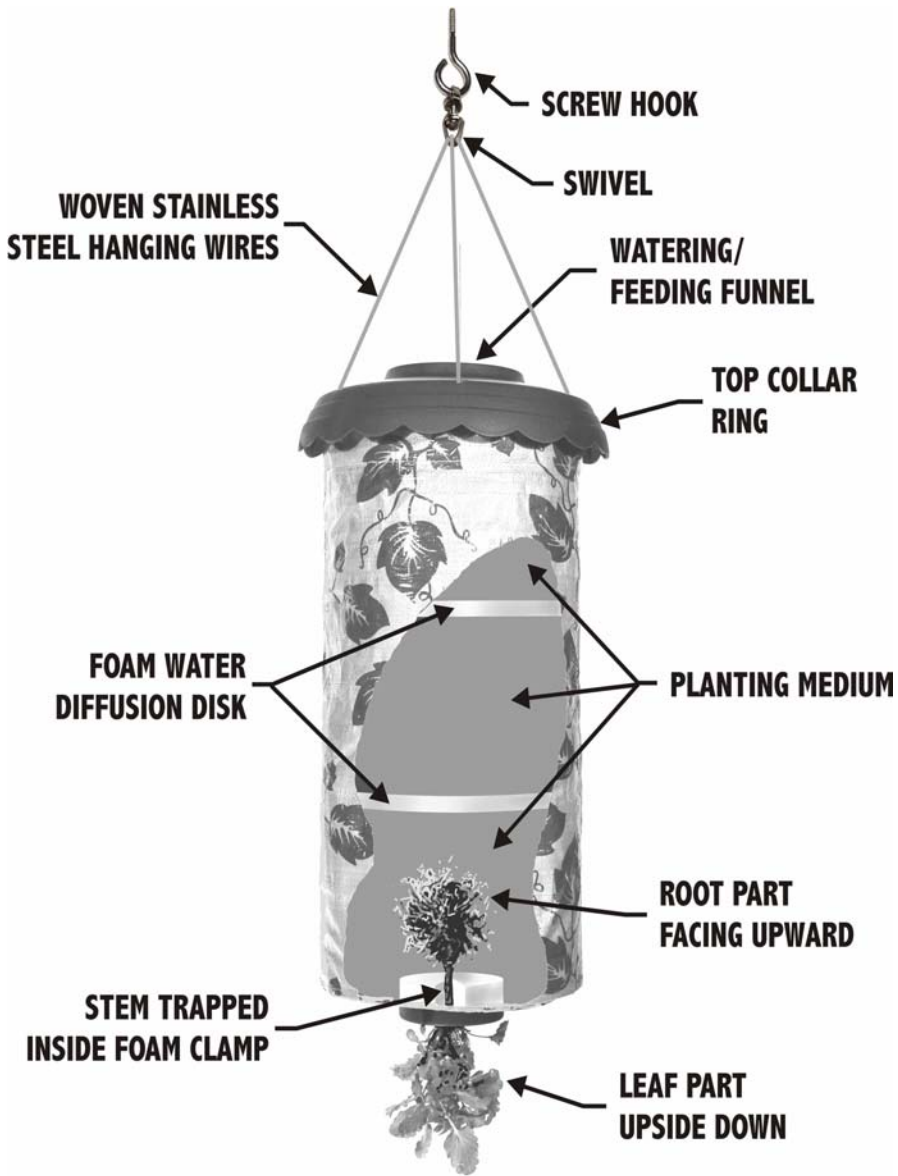
2.

Take your bedding tomato plant out of its plastic tray, shake the loose soil off the roots (maybe "squeeze them down a little bit") then put the **ROOTS UPSIDE DOWN UP THROUGH THE HOLE IN THE BOTTOM OF TOPSY Turvy.**

3.

With your hand INSIDE THE BAG, remove the split sponge from the plastic base at bottom of the TOPSY bag and hold the split open and apart. Clamp this split around the upside down tomato stem, "trapping" it in that position.

Next, press the sponge firmly and fully back down into the shelf at bottom of TOPSY's plastic base. Following the directions in the enclosed instruction booklet, fill the TOPSY bag with your chosen growing medium. You're ready to hang your planted TOPSY Turvy.



CUTAWAY VIEW OF PLANTED TOPSY TURVY

FELKNOR VENTURES LLC

TOPSY TURVY™ INSTRUCTIONS:

It will be helpful to read these instructions before starting, even though the SIMPLIFIED front cover sheet is probably enough for you to easily plant your new TOPSY Turvy. However, if you want additional detail, please see the following pages.

Remember, TOPSY Turvy is a VERY SIMPLE PLANTER TO FILL WITH SOIL, PLANT AND MAINTAIN.

Congratulations on purchasing the most advanced system for growing tomatoes and fresh herbs ever offered to the gardening public. TOPSY Turvy is a NEW growing concept called a VERTICAL GRO-BAG WITH ALL GROWTH OUT THE BASE.

Growing upside down and vertically gives you a HOST of major advantages! TOPSY Turvy can be hung from a tree or from an overhead of deck, patio or porch. With TOPSY Turvy, you'll enjoy garden fresh tomatoes or huge harvests of fresh herbs right outside your kitchen door. Best of all, you'll do so without cages, stakes, tying up or weeding!

TOPSY Turvy also works beautifully for peppers, cucumbers, herbs, and flowers of all kinds!

Growing UPSIDE DOWN lets you water and feed your plants without stooping or bending. You can use a water-soluble fertilizer, just pouring it in with the water. Or, if you prefer, just place handfuls of granular fertilizer in through the top funnel and water as usual. And harvesting is SO EASY! In fact, plants growing “upside down” will often curl upward, searching for the sun. You will be amazed at the unusual shapes your plants will assume.

PARTS LIST FOR TOPSY TURVY

(The only tool needed for assembly is a ordinary household drill with 3/16" bit for pre-drilling hole for the furnished heavy duty, galvanized hanging hook),

- 1. TOP SWIVEL, ATTACHED TO WOVEN STAINLESS STEEL HANGING WIRES**
- 2. TOP LID, WITH FEEDING/WATERING FUNNEL MOLDED IN**
- 3. TOP COLLAR RING WITH FLUTED EDGES, ALREADY MOUNTED TO THE GRO-BAG (NO FURTHER ASSEMBLY REQUIRED)**
- 4. MAIN GRO-BAG, GREEN GARDEN COLOR WITH SCREENED-ON LEAF IMAGES**
- 5. BOTTOM PLASTIC PIECE, PROTRUDING THROUGH BASE OF TOPSY AND PRE-MOUNTED IN PLACE (NO FURTHER ASSEMBLY REQUIRED)**
- 6. TWO CIRCULAR FOAM RINGS FOR USE INSIDE TOPSY TURVY**
- 7. CIRCULAR ‘SPLIT FOAM’, DENSELY-CELLED FOAM CIRCLE WHICH FITS ON SHELF LOCATED INSIDE BOTTOM PLASTIC PIECE**
- 8. HEAVY DUTY GALVANIZED SCREW HOOK, WHICH IS PACKED IN LOOSE**
- 9. THIS INSTRUCTION SHEET**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLANTING YOUR TOPSY TURVY

First of all, please remember, YOU WILL NEED TO PLACE YOUR TOMATO (OR OTHER PLANT FACING UPWARD) THROUGH THE BOTTOM OPENING OF TOPSY TURVY BEFORE FILLING WITH GROWING MEDIUM. Read on and it will become clear and easy.

First, the best way to “start” is simply to hang the empty TOPSY Turvy bag from an overhead limb or overhead area, using a length of cord long enough to place the bag about ten inches off the ground. Now you have very easy access and can quickly accomplish BOTH the positioning of the plant AND the filling.

Next, remove the two foam circular pieces found loose inside the gro-bag, and set them to the side. Now, take the bottom “split planting foam ring” out of the shelf in the bottom of the gro-bag.

***SPECIAL REMINDER!* TOPSY TURVY IS NOT INTENDED FOR PLANTING DIRECTLY WITH SEED. EXISTING YOUNG SEEDLINGS MUST BE USED. THESE YOU CAN EASILY GROW THEM YOURSELF FROM SEED AND THEN USE IN TOPSY TURVY OR YOU WILL FIND A HUGE VARIETY OF MATURE SEEDLINGS READILY AVAILABLE FROM SEED CATALOGS OR AT ANY LOCAL GARDEN SHOP OR MAJOR CHAIN STORES.**

To plant your TOPSY Turvy, first remove the tomato seedling from the thin plastic nursery tray and gently shake excess soil from the roots. If necessary, it is OK to ‘squeeze the roots down’ so they will more easily fit up through TOPSY Turvy’s bottom opening. If the root system is still too “fat” to go up through the base hole, it is OK to trim “some” excessive roots

off, using ordinary household scissors. Once your plant is prepared and ready, you can quickly and easily slide it (ROOTS UPWARD) up through the bottom plastic piece opening.

TO HOLD YOUR TOMATO PLANT'S ROOT SYSTEM UP INSIDE THE BAG, first fit the CIRCULAR SPLIT SPONGE around the stem and then press this split sponge back down inside the shelf area of the bottom plastic piece. Your tomato plant (now UPSIDE DOWN) will remain firmly locked into place while you fill the bag with planting medium. If the tomato plant "flops" around inside a bit, don't worry. As you fill the TOPSY Turvy Gro-Bag with planting medium, you can re-position the tomato plant back into a perfectly vertical "upside down" position.

ANOTHER GROWING TIP: WITH TOMATO PLANTS ONLY, YOU SHOULD SLIDE AS MUCH AVAILABLE 'STEM' UP INSIDE THE TOPSY TURVY BAG AS POSSIBLE. NEW ROOTS WILL DEVELOP ALL ALONG YOUR TOMATO STEM, PROVIDING A HUGE NEW ROOT SYSTEM!

CHOOSING YOUR GROWING MEDIUM **(SOIL)**

(1). An excellent choice is a mixture of peat, vermiculite, and perlite, packaged as 'ready to use' by companies such as Lambert ®, Premier ®, etc., and available at all garden centers and nurseries.

(2). Our FAVORITE!! You can grow your plants using plain Canadian Peat, which is VERY LOW COST TO BUY and is available everywhere, including major chain outlets. However, if you use plain peat, which has NO NUTRIENTS IN IT AT

ALL, you MUST BE SURE TO mix fertilizer in thoroughly in the peat before filling the bag. Then, follow up with frequent feeding. The big advantage of using ordinary Canadian Peat is **you can fill your TOPSY Turvy for less than one dollar.** At end of season, you can just dump it out and start fresh next time you replant your TOPSY Turvy.

(3). You can also use any good potting soil but many of these are fairly expensive.

WHAT NOT TO USE!!

WE URGE YOU TO NOT USE CHEAP TOP-SOIL sold as lost leaders at garden shops. Bagged top-soil is very poor quality and unsuitable for vertical gro-bags. If you have questions, the experts at your local garden store or nursery will advise you.

ANOTHER TIP: To avoid difficulty in lifting TOPSY Turvy to a higher hanging position once it is planted, you can put the planting medium into the bag (around the positioned tomato plant) **in its original DRY state,** right out of the bag.

Remember, once the planting medium is “wet”, the bag weight increases dramatically. **Once the bag is hung, you can THEN wet the medium by tying a garden hose to TOPSY Turvy’s hanging wires over the top funnel and start a SLOW BUT STEADY DRIP of water down into the bag for about two/three hours.** Or, if preferred, you can put the planting medium into a tub or wheel barrow and wet it down thoroughly before using it to fill the bag.

As covered above, if you “pre-wet” your planting medium, the bag will be much heavier than if you plant the tomato plant and then fill it with “dry” medium. Even wet, TOPSY Turvy should be no problem for a strong person to lift into place. If you’re not sure, ask a neighbor to help you.

VERY IMPORTANT!! As you fill TOPSY Turvy with growing medium, we recommend you mix in a generous amount of starter fertilizer (such as time release fertilizer) into the dry planting medium before wetting or putting it into the bag. Ask your garden shop expert for the exactly right formula! This will give your new tomato (or other) plant good nutrition right off (especially important if you are using straight Canadian peat).

PLACEMENT OF THE TWO INTERIOR FOAM CIRCLES

The two foam circles furnished with your TOPSY Turvy are intended to help slow down water, making it soak more fully and evenly distributed into the growing medium surround the plant roots. As you fill your TOPSY Turvy bag with either dry planting medium (or pre-wetted medium), please place the **FIRST CIRCLE** just slightly below the middle of the bag. Then continuing filling the bag with growing medium until you get within one-third of the bag length from the top. Place the **SECOND CIRCLE** there, then finish filling the bag right to the very top. Placement of these two foam circles is not critical. Just estimate best you can, as instructed above. As you water, the planting medium will “settle downward” a little bit, so you might have to add additional planting medium at the top.

OTHER TIP: We have had great success with a root-developing formula trademarked **ROOTblast**® mixed in with our planting medium in TOPSY Turvy gro-bags. ROOTblast features a smorgasbord of rare earth nutrients designed to “kick start” and accelerate root growth and is available direct from the QVC web site and fine garden shops everywhere.

As your upside down plant grows and matures, **IT WILL NEED INCREASING AMOUNTS OF FERTILIZER.** Many gardeners fail to properly water and fertilize when their tomatoes are **MATURE** and require **80 to 90 %** of their nutrients and water. At this critical time, you can add a good tomato-formulated granular fertilizer directly through **TOPSY Turvy's top feeding/watering funnel lid.** Or, if you prefer, use a tomato-formulated water-soluble fertilizer mixed with water and just pour it in. Your garden center experts can tell you exactly which fertilizer is best for the type plant you are growing. Also, there are **MANY** tomato culture web sites available on the internet.

INSTALLING THE SCREW HOOK

You were furnished a very heavy duty screw hook, more than sufficient to hold a **TOPSY Turvy** full of wet planting medium and a mature tomato (or any other) plant. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO CAREFULLY, SAFELY AND SECURELY INSTALL THIS SCREW HOOK.** First, do **NOT** try to hang your **TOPSY Turvy** from a ceiling made of plywood or other lightweight material. **It won't hold the weight.** Instead, the screw hook should be mounted **ONLY** into solid wood. **At LEAST a 2" X 4" solid wood board.** So, if you are drilling through thin wood, dry wall or other flimsy ceiling material, **be very careful the screw is securely seated on the other side, ALL THE WAY TO THE END OF THE SCREW THREADS (at least 1 1/4" deep) INTO A STUD OR OTHER SOLID WOOD PIECE.**

SPECIAL NOTE: If you wish to lower **TOPSY Turvy** to an easier height to work, just use a length of low-cost chain (available at any hardware store) between the screw hook and the top swivel. Or, you can use a nylon, fairly heavy cord, rated to hold at least forty to fifty pounds). If you use nylon cord, be sure and replace it every new season.

Felknor Ventures LLC
P. O. Box 801
Clinton, TN 37716
TOPSY TURVY™ MADE IN CHINA