

McVitie's Fruit Shortcake: Short Crumb and Currants

From the teas.co.uk wiki

McVitie's Fruit Shortcake: Short Crumb and Currants, in summary: A pale, uncoated shortcake with currants baked through the crumb. The short dough makes it break cleanly and melt fast, which also makes it a poor dunker; eat it beside Earl Grey or a light Ceylon.

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in September 2026.

Fruit Shortcake is the plain end of the McVitie's range: a pale biscuit with no [chocolate](#), cream or coating, just currants in a short crumb. Because nothing else competes, the fruit carries the whole flavour.

What short means here

Shortcake describes the crumb rather than a flavour. A short dough carries a high share of fat against the flour, which keeps long gluten strands from forming, so the biscuit breaks cleanly and dissolves on the tongue instead of asking to be chewed. It is baked pale to keep toasted flavours out of the way, so beside other [biscuits](#) in the tin it can look underdone. It is not.

Currants make up 12% of the published recipe. Around them sit wheat flour, palm and sunflower oils, sugar, oatmeal, glucose syrup, raising agents, partially inverted sugar syrup, salt, natural flavouring and curcumin for colour, and none of those competes with the fruit. The label gives wheat and oats as its gluten sources, and the pack itself carries the current allergen advice.

Why it stays beside the cup

[Dunking](#) is the one thing this biscuit does badly. The thin, short crumb drinks tea instantly and there is nothing on the outside to bind it, so it collapses the moment it meets the cup. If you want a McVitie's biscuit for dunking, the Original Digestives or the Hobnobs are built for the job; this one is for eating dry with the mug alongside.

With no coating there is nothing to melt or smear, and it copes with a bag as well as any biscuit; the worst it suffers is a few broken pieces. Once the 200g pack is open, though, the crumb goes leathery rather than simply soft, and the currants' own moisture speeds that up in a steamy kitchen. Fold the wrapper tightly, or tip them into a tin if the pack is going to last beyond a couple of days.

Earl Grey and other good company

Nothing in a fruit shortcake fights anything, so it gets along with an ordinary cup of tea, a milky coffee, even a glass of cold milk. [Earl Grey](#) is the standout, because bergamot and dried fruit sit comfortably together, and a light [Ceylon](#) keeps the cup as quiet as the biscuit. Four in a row do not pile up sweetness the way a coated biscuit would.

It earns its place on a plate for guests who do not want a fuss, the office meeting or the church hall, where an unassuming biscuit is exactly what is needed. Pair it with something scented rather than something strong: a hefty breakfast brew is not wrong, but it drowns the currants, and they are the only flavour event the biscuit has.

The packs we stock

- [McVitie's Fruit Shortcake Biscuits, 200g](#) (barcode 5000168104621)

What the label says

The published ingredient list for McVitie's Fruit Shortcake Biscuits, 200g says it contains wheat and oats (gluten). Check the current UK pack before purchase; formulations and allergen advice can change.

Ingredients, as published: Flour (Wheat Flour, Calcium, Iron, Niacin, Thiamin), Vegetable Oils (Palm, Sunflower), Sugar, Currants (12%), Oatmeal, Glucose Syrup, Raising Agents (Ammonium Bicarbonate, Sodium Bicarbonate, Disodium Diphosphate), Partially Inverted Sugar Syrup, Salt, Natural Flavouring, Colour (Curcumin).

Typical values per 100g Per 100g

Energy	465 kcal
Fat	18.9g
of which saturates	6.3g
Carbohydrate	66.5g
of which sugars	26.3g
Fibre	3.1g
Protein	5.7g
Salt	0.94g

Ingredient and nutrition information for this product, as published on the manufacturer's label. The pack in your hands is the final word.

What to drink with it

- [Dilmah Premium Ceylon Black, 25 Tea Bags 50g](#): A Ceylon [black tea](#), brewed on the light side so the cup stays as quiet as the biscuit and the currants still come through.
- [Brew Tea Co Earl Grey Proper, 15 Tea Bags 45g](#): An Earl Grey whose bergamot sits comfortably beside the dried fruit in the crumb.

- [Twinings Lady Grey, 80 Tea Bags 200g](#): A [Lady Grey](#) for an afternoon plate, carrying on the scented-cup idea that suits the currants.
- [Dragonfly Organic Vanilla Rooibos, 40 Tea Bags 100g](#): A vanilla rooibos that brings out the plain, baked side of the biscuit.

Elsewhere in the McVitie's range

- [McVitie's Club Layers Orange, 39g](#)
- [McVitie's Club Mint Biscuit Bars Multipack, 7 Bars 154g](#)
- [McVitie's Club Orange Biscuit Bars Multipack, 7 Bars 154g](#)
- [McVitie's Club Salted Caramel Flavour Biscuit Bars Multipack, 7 x 22g](#)
- [McVitie's Dark Chocolate Digestive Biscuits, 266g](#)
- [McVitie's Digestive Pink Raspberry & Cream Flavour, Limited Edition, 232g](#)

The full range is on the [McVitie's brand page](#).

FAQ

What is a fruit shortcake biscuit? A pale, crumbly biscuit from a short, fat-rich dough, with dried fruit baked right through it. In the McVitie's version the fruit is currants.

Can you dunk fruit shortcake? Not well. The short crumb collapses almost as soon as it meets hot tea, so eat it beside the cup.

What tea goes with fruit shortcake? Earl Grey, whose bergamot suits the currants, or a light Ceylon. Almost anything works, but very strong tea hides the fruit.

Does McVitie's Fruit Shortcake contain gluten? Yes. The published ingredient list gives wheat and oats as its gluten sources.

Why does it look so pale? It is baked pale by design, which keeps toasted flavours out of the way of the currants. It is not underbaked.

Curator's note: Put a plate of these out with a pot of Earl Grey and let them do the quiet job they were made for. Nobody ever complains about a fruit shortcake. Lee, [teas.co.uk](#), Tunbridge Wells.

In short: McVitie's Fruit Shortcake: Short Crumb and Currants

Field	Detail
Brand	McVitie's
Packs we stock	200g
Category	Chocolate Biscuits
Allergens (as published)	It contains wheat and oats (gluten).
Dunkable	No, eat it beside the cup
Best with	Earl Grey or a light Ceylon

Field

Detail

Occasion

Visitors, meetings and the everyday tin

More from the tea wiki

- [Tea and Biscuits](#)
- [Biscuit Dunking Physics: The Real Science](#)
- [Tea Pairing Principles: Reason, Don't Memorise](#)
- [Tea With Cake: The Pairing That Never Fails \(If You Get It Right\)](#)
- [Tea and Food Pairing: The Five Principles](#)
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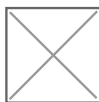
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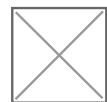
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