

Planting Potatoes

- Always plant certified seed potatoes, which are available at greenhouses and garden centres. Certified seed potatoes are disease-free and will produce the largest crop of potatoes. The potatoes you saved from last year or get at the supermarket might seem healthy, but these should not be used for planting as they are susceptible to disease.



- Two weeks before planting, expose your seed potatoes to warmth and lots of light to encourage them to sprout. Each potato should have at least 1 or 2 sprouts or “eyes”. Large seed potatoes can be cut into smaller pieces a few days before planting. Make sure a callous has formed over the cut area before planting.



- Plant your potatoes in a location that gets full sun.
- Potatoes can be planted as soon as the ground can be easily worked. Make sure the soil is not wet or soggy.
- You will get the best crop when you plant in light, loose, well drained soil.
- Choose a location for your potato plants where potatoes, tomatoes and peppers have not been planted for at least two years.



Growing Potatoes

- Hoe your potato plants regularly.
- When plants are between 6-8 inches tall, hoe up to 4 inches of soil to create hills around each plant. This helps your potato tubers grow.
- Water your plants regularly, especially when tubers are forming, about 6-10 weeks after planting.

Harvesting Potatoes



- Potatoes can be harvested whenever they become large enough to eat.
- To harvest a few potatoes without disturbing the entire plant, with your hand dig away some of the soil around the hill and pull some tubers off at the roots.
- Leave harvest potatoes outdoors in a shaded area to dry for a few hours after harvesting and before storing.
- Store in a cool, dark place. Warm temperatures encourage potatoes to sprout and shrivel. Never store your potatoes in the fridge.



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