



Plant Resources

Potato Growing Guide

Seed potatoes aren't seeds—they're actually whole potatoes or pieces of potatoes that have "eyes" (the small buds or sprouts). These eyes grow into new potato plants.

Getting Started

- One pound of seed potatoes is enough to plant about 10' of row.
- Potatoes like soil that is loose, well-drained, and slightly acidic.
- If you are planting in a container, make sure there is a hole in the bottom.
- Use a potting soil or a mix of compost + garden soil + peat.

MAKING YOUR SOIL MORE ACIDIC

To make your soil more acidic, add sulfur to the area before planting. Use 1 or 1.5 lbs per 100 square feet, and work it into the soil. It is best to get a soil test first. The 1 lb rate is a safe rate, usually.

PREP YOUR POTATO

Cut your seed potatoes into 2-4 pieces, making sure that each piece has 2 eyes. It's best to do this a day or two before planting, so the cut surface can heal over. If the pieces are too small, the growth will be slow and weak.

Planting

Step 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dig a trench about 4" deep.• Face your potato pieces 'eyes up'.• Plant these pieces 12" apart, with the eyes on the top side.• After setting the pieces, cover them with soil and water.
Step 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As the potatoes grow, keep adding soil to the row. This is called 'hilling the row'. You can hoe it from the walkways toward the row, or add soil from elsewhere. This will result in the new growing potatoes to grow deeper and protect them from sunburn.
Step 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As the plants sprout and grow, keep adding soil. Leave 6-12" of green growth showing. The potato stems and leaves will keep growing upward and the soil level will gradually rise in your pot.• When the soil is a few inches from the top, just stop adding it and let the plants keep growing. o When the leaves start to die down in the fall, you can dump the pot and find your potatoes!
Step 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watch out for potato beetles and caterpillars. They love potato leaves.• Pick them off or use an insecticide.• It's important to deal with them before they destroy your garden.

Harvesting

- If you want small summer potatoes, dig them in July, a few weeks after the potato plant flowers. Sometimes you can just reach into the row and sneak out a few of the early potatoes-- the main part will keep growing,
- In late August or in September, the leaves will start to yellow. The potato has grown fully and can be harvested.

Seed potatoes have not been treated, like supermarket potatoes are to prevent the eyes from growing.

FACT

Storing

- Store your harvested potatoes in the dark, spread one layer deep at room temperature, for 1 to 2 weeks, so any cuts can heal over.
- They can be stored in a dark cool place or a refrigerator afterwards.



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or visit www.abrahamsonnurseries.com

Scandia

20021 St Croix Trail N,
Scandia, MN 55073
(651) 433-2431



Stillwater

2100 Tower Dr W,
Stillwater, MN 55082
(651) 439-2140



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