



Tips for Growing Potatoes

PLANTING POSITION

Plant in a sunny position, with at least 6 hours of sun, after the risk of frost has passed.

SOIL

Potatoes like a rich and free draining soil. Prepare the soil with plenty of organic matter, compost and rotted cow manure.

AT PLANTING

Plant potatoes about 10cm deep and 30cm apart, leaving about 80cm between each row. When new shoots emerge, place on top more compost, cow manure and straw.

WATERING

Water your newly planted potatoes in well with a tonic, such as seaweed or worm wee tea.

Keep the soil moist but not wet, giving an occasional water with seaweed or worm wee tea.

PLANTING POTATOES INTO A WIRE FRAME

Make a cylinder of chicken wire about 1m in diameter and secured with stakes. Prepare soil and plant potatoes as described above.

As the plants grow, add more straw and manure and repeat as the potatoes grow to the height of the chicken wire.

PLANTING POTATOES INTO A LARGE POT

Prepare a large container to ensure they have adequate drainage. Place a thick layer of straw and well rotted manure at the base of the container. Plant about 4 potatoes. Follow the wire frame method above. To harvest, dig or tip out the potatoes.

HARVESTING YOUR POTATO CROP

When the plant has finished flowering and the leaves begin to yellow, stop watering. At this point, you can harvest 'new' potatoes. These potatoes have soft skin and do not store, so they are best eaten immediately.

The main crop is harvested when the plant completely dies off. Leave the crop in the ground or pot for 2 to 3 weeks to let the skin dry out and thicken. Dig up carefully and store away from direct sunlight, in a well ventilated position.

Never eat potatoes that have turned green or have green shoots as they can be poisonous.

COMPANION PLANTING

Plants that grow well alongside your potatoes include: coriander, marigold, beans, corn and cabbage.

Plants to avoid growing near your potatoes include: pumpkin, cucumber, squash, melons, sunflowers and tomatoes.

INFORMATION SOURCED THROUGH:

www.diggers.com.au and www.sgaonline.org.au

