

Grow a row, Pick a branch

Grow a Row: Potato

Soil preparation

Potatoes like a rich and free-draining soil. Prepare the soil with plenty of organic matter, compost and well-aged cow manure. If you can't do all of these just try for one to improve the soil. A bag of compost or manure from the local nursery is a good start. You could even try to find a neighbour with some spare compost.

Where to plant

In the Bendigo area, potatoes can be grown in full sun or an area that gets just a little bit of shade at some stage during the day.

How to plant

Plant the potato seed about 10cm deep and about 30cm from other potato seed. To do this you can dig a trench 10cm deep and place them where you want them or simply sit the potato on top of the soil where you want and then dig them in 10cm. You can plant in rows at about 40cm apart or interspace (zig zag pattern) and remain about 30cm apart for each potato.

Planting in a big pot or bag - this is great if you don't have much space

Place about 10cm of soil and mulch in the bottom of the pot or bag, and put 3-4 potatoes on top of the soil, spaced about 30cm apart. If you can't put that many in, then put a few less. Cover with another 10cm of soil and mulch/compost, and water potatoes in well. As the plants grow, you can progressively add more soil and/or mulch up to the top of the plant. This means you might get more potatoes from your plant. Being in a pot or bag they should also be easier to harvest.

Information sourced here, and more info for harvesting:

diggers.com.au and sgaonline.org.au