



GROWING YOUR GARDEN

How to grow potatoes: Garden guide

What Makes Potatoes Unique

When planting potatoes, you don't need seeds or a seedling, you just need a potato! Potato plants sprout from the 'eyes' of a potato. 'Eyes' on a potato are the small dark indentations on the skin of a potato. A new potato plant stem grows from each eye. You may have seen this process begin on potatoes that you held in your kitchen for too long!



How to Plant Potatoes

You can increase the number of potatoes each potato plant will grow if you bury its stem as it grows. To accomplish this in your Learning Garden, place your potatoes in one row (8-12 inches apart) at the bottom of a single trench that follows the contour of the bed. Make your trench as deep as your garden will allow without spilling soil out of your garden usually about 12-14 inches deep. When you place your potatoes in the trench, make sure as many 'eyes' are facing upwards as possible. Once all of your potatoes are laid out in the trench, fill the trench back in until each potato is covered by 1-2 inches of soil



As Your Potatoes Grow

As your potatoes grow, continue to cover the new stems of the potato plant. Always leave the newest 6 inches of growth of your potato plant exposed. Continue this process of adding soil around the base of the plants until the potato stems are growing out of a mound of soil rather than a trench.





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When Potatoes Are Ready to Harvest

Potatoes typically grow for 80-110 days. When your potato plants have grown tall, flowered, and then begun to fall over, your potatoes are ready to harvest. Ripe potatoes can stay buried in your garden for quite some time, so be sure you plan your harvests around the availability and presence of students to help with the harvest! Potatoes are one of the most fun harvests in your garden.



How to Harvest Your Potatoes

Because potatoes grow below the surface of the soil, you will need to dig them out of the garden. When digging for potatoes, you want to be careful not to cut any of your potatoes. Dig straight down along the edges of your garden and lift the soil inwards to loosen it. Once the soil is loosened, sort through the soil by hand to find your potatoes.

Videos:

Planting



Mounding



Harvesting

