

Potato Planting Guide

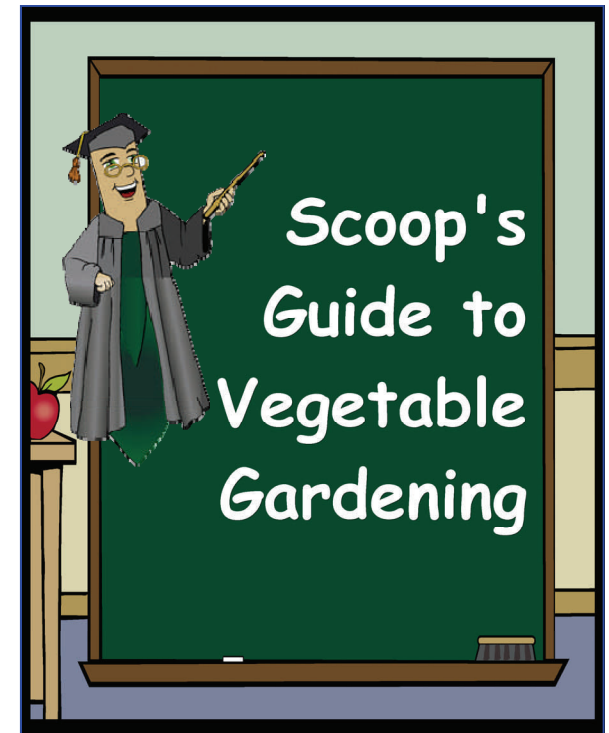
- Depending on the season, 1 lb of planted potatoes will usually yield approx. 15 lbs.
- Store potatoes in a cool, dry place until planting.
- All tubers less than 2" in diameter may be planted whole (as they are).
- For larger tubers, cut the potatoes so that each piece will contain at least 2 eyes.
- Although some suggest a period of "healing" after cutting, it is not a necessary practice.
- Distance between rows is recommended to be 30"-36".
- Dig a shallow trench about 3" deep (3" wide at the bottom also).
- Plant your seed potatoes 10"-14" apart.
- Use a rake to carefully cover the pieces immediately after planting.
- A small mound (1") can be made over the row. Do not plant or cover too deep-4" is ideal!
- Shoots should emerge approximately 2 weeks after planting depending on weather conditions.
- After young shoots are 4"-5" high, hill them with a rake or hoe (both sides of the plant) leaving about 1" of plant exposed.
- This procedure should be repeated periodically to protect potato tubers from sunlight.
- Be careful to avoid damaging the tubers with your rake or hoe while cultivating or hilling.
- Early varieties may be harvested in approx. 50-60 days for fresh table use.
- Later varieties intended for winter storage and use may be harvested when vines are matured (dead) which may be encouraged by a heavy frost.
- If there are no frosts before Sept. 20, remove vines by hand taking care not to pull tubers from the ground.
- Leave tubers in the ground 2 weeks to "set" the skins and then harvest.
- Store in a cool, semi-damp location for best storage life.

Fertilizing Vegetable Crops

- Soil testing your garden is the most accurate way to determine exact nutrient needs.
- Lime Application Guidelines:
 - Apply 2 1/2 lbs. Of hydrated lime or 5 lbs. of regular lime per 100 sq. ft. (10' x 10') every 5 years.
 - A soil pH of 5.8 to 6.8 is best for most vegetables.
 - To lower pH add Aluminum Sulfate or Ammonium Sulfate.
- Soil Conditioners such as Compost, Humus & Manure are organic sources of nutrients.
- Granular commercial fertilizers such as 12-12-12 or 20-10-10 are also excellent nutrient sources.
 - Broadcast 1-2 lbs. of 12-12-12 fertilizer per 100 sq. ft. (10' x 10') and work in prior to planting.
 - Prior to seeding row crops, make small furrows about 3" on each side of the row and 2"-3" deep. Apply 12-12-12 fertilizer in the furrows at the rate of 1 lb. per 100 feet of row. Then level off the fertilizer furrows and make a row for the seed between the strips of fertilizer.
 - Vegetables requiring higher amounts of Nitrogen (Sweet Corn, Leafy Vegetables--Cabbage, Lettuce, Cauliflower, etc.) should have 20-10-10 fertilizer applied 4"-5" to the side of the row ("side dressing") at the rate of 1 lb. per 100 feet of row.
 - Side dress leafy vegetables after plants are well started and sweet corn when it is 12"-15" tall.
- **CAUTION:**
 - Always avoid granular fertilizer from coming in direct contact with the seed or tender roots.
 - Do not use fertilizers containing herbicides in the home garden.
- Water Soluble Fertilizers (i.e. "Miracle Grow") are excellent additional nutrient sources that are very available for the plant to quickly absorb at periodic (2 week) intervals.

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