

Growing Potatoes



Potatoes are grown from pieces of the tuber (or potato) that contain the “eyes”, the tiny depression from which sprouts grow. Do not use store bought potatoes as seed, as they are often treated with sprout inhibitors. Instead, order certified disease-free seed from a seed company or garden centre. Below is a quick guide for growing potatoes.

Category	Directions and Notes
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertile and well-drained.
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acidic soil. Do not lime. Mix 6-12-12 fertilizer at 1lb per 10' of row, mix in well.
Planting Directions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cure the seed pieces by drying them slightly for a day in an airy, bright location. Cut potatoes into pieces approximately 2oz. and containing at least one “eye”. Plant seeds in furrows 4” deep, 3” wide, and 3’ apart. Set the pieces 12” apart. Plant with eyes upward and cover with 3” of soil.
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sprouts will show in three weeks approximately. As tubers and plants grow, mound soil up over the tubers to keep them covered. Do not let light shine on the tubers or they will turn green and toxic substances will develop in them.
Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven to eight weeks after planting, potatoes begin to develop flowers. At this time, some of the potatoes may be harvested as “new” potatoes. Be careful not to damage to plant when digging down to unearth the tubers. Leave some tubers to grow and cover them with soil again. It is time to harvest all of the potatoes once the foliage dies and withers. The potatoes could be left in the ground until late summer, but harvest before the first frost. Dig the tubers with a spade or fork. Wash tubers and let them dry in a ventilated, dark place before storing. Do not store damaged or diseased potatoes as they will infect any good potatoes. Store your potatoes in a cool (3-4°C), dark place.
Special Notes	<p>Potato Varieties:</p> <p>Atlantic: Mid-season, oval/round, shallow eyes, buff skin with white flesh, high yield. Highly resistant to virus X, and resistant to late blight. Dry potato. Moderately resistant to wart, resistant to golden nematode, tolerant to scab and verticillium wilt. Resistant to pink eye. Susceptible to hollow heart. Excellent baking, boiling, chipping potato with good store-ability.</p> <p>Chieftan: Mid-season, round / oval tuber with medium eyes. Bright red skin and white flesh. High yield, medium dry. Resistant to virus A and late blight. Susceptible to wart and golden nematode. Highly resistant to common scab. Fair baking, boiling potato with fair store-ability.</p> <p>Fundy: Early, round, shallow eyes, buff skin with white flesh. High yield. Medium dry. Excellent baking or boiling type. Good storability.</p> <p>Kennebec: Mid-season, oblong potato with shallow eyes. Buff skin with white flesh. High yield and medium dry. Resistant to virus A, virus X, virus Y, and late blight. Moderately resistant to wart and black leg. Susceptible to golden nematode, common scab, verticillium wilt, and pink eye. Tolerant of drought. Excellent baking, boiling, and store-ability. Good chipping. Used for fresh market.</p>

Russet Burbank: Very late potato, long shape and shallow eyes. Russet skin colour with white flesh. High yield and dry potato. Susceptible to virus Y, wart, golden nematode, hollow heart and second growth. Resistant to common scab, black leg and fusarium dry rot. Excellent baking and french fry potato. Good boiling and store-ability. Used in processing market.

Superior: Early to mid-season. Light buff skinned, round tubers with white flesh. Moderately resistant to common scab. Good for boiling and baking. Not recommended for long-term storage.

Yukon Gold: Mid-season oval potato with shallow eyes. Yellow buff skin and light yellow flesh. High yield and dry. Resistant to leaf roll and virus A. Susceptible to wart, golden nematode and common scab. Very good baking, boiling potato for fresh market. Excellent storability.

Norland Red: high yielding; drought sensitive. Produces even tubers and stores well. Very good for boiling and salads; fair for baking and chips. Moderate scab resistance. Early maturing with dark red skin and white flesh. Plant 6 to 6 inches apart for smaller "new" potatoes.

