

fact sheet - how to grow potatoes



Growing potatoes in a bucket

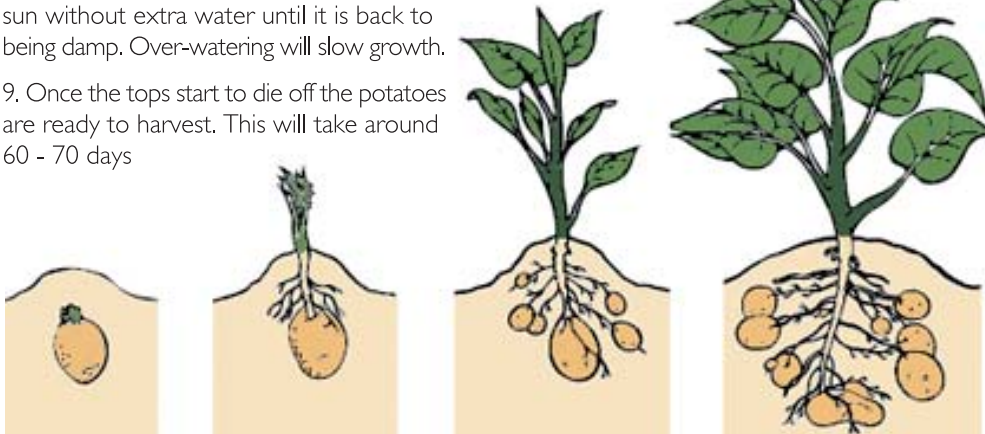
You can grow your own potatoes in a bucket... they will take around 60 - 70 days and you will be able to harvest.

You will need:

- a bucket
- 1 seed potato
- compost or soil

Planting instructions:

1. Make sure your seed potato is starting to sprout before planting. If there are no sprouts it may take ages to start to grow so place on a windowsill until you see the sprouts coming through.
2. Make a drainage hole in the bottom of a bucket. An adult should do this. It can be done using a hammer and nail.
3. Place enough fresh dry topsoil in the bucket so it is about one third full.
4. Push in one seed potato per bucket and make sure it is covered with 1 cm soil.
5. Water the soil so it is damp. You will need about one cup of water. The soil should only be damp, not wet. The potato does not require much water until the top is growing.
6. Place the bucket in a warm and sunny spot. The plants will need sunshine – this can be indoors beside a window or outdoors. The plant will respond well to being outside in the sunshine but as you will be growing them over winter they must come in at night.
7. The potato needs to be protected from frosts so you will need to bring it in each day. It is essential that the plant is not frosted.
8. Once the shoots emerge, keep the soil damp but not wet. If it does get over-watered put it in the sun without extra water until it is back to being damp. Over-watering will slow growth.
9. Once the tops start to die off the potatoes are ready to harvest. This will take around 60 - 70 days



Growing your potato...

Plants need light, water, food, space, air and the correct temperature to grow really well.

Light: Plants need light to grow, so make sure you put your potatoes somewhere in the light.

Water: Potatoes need water to grow. Make sure you don't over water it or it will go mouldy. Ensure that the soil is damp, water every 3 - 4 days.

Food: Potatoes need food to grow: this comes from the nutrients in the soil. Compost should contain everything your potatoes needs. You might want to add some extra plant food. If you do, read the instructions carefully.

Temperature: The ideal temperature for growing your potato is 10 - 15°C.

Space: The more room the plant has the better – so even though we are giving you instructions for bucket growing you will get better results if you plant them in the garden – however in the winter that is not possible unless you can protect them from frosts. Buckets are a great solution in the winter.

