

GROWING POTATOES IN A BUCKET

Potatoes need light, water, food, the correct temperature and early potatoes such as Jersey Bennie or Nadine will take 80-90 days to grow and 'main crop' crops such as Rua, Agria or Desiree will take 90-100 days.

1. Light – put the potato plant somewhere in the light.



2. Water – the soil should be damp so water every 3-4 days.



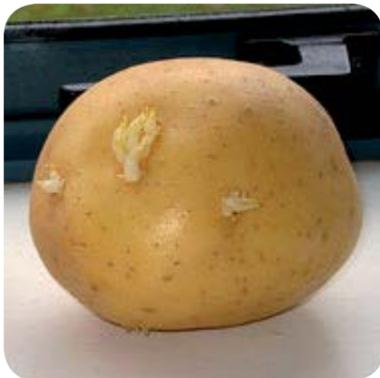
3. Food – the soil or compost should contain everything your potato needs. If extra potato food is added read the instructions carefully.

4. Temperature – the ideal temperature for growing potatoes is 10-15°C.



5. Space – The more room the plant has the better, so although these instructions are for growing potatoes in a bucket, potatoes planted in the garden will give better results.

Note: Do not eat any of the growing potato plant – only the potatoes can be eaten.



Planting instructions

You will need:

- a bucket
- 1 seed potato
- soil or compost

1. Use a seed potato with sprouts. If there are no sprouts on the potato place it on a windowsill until you see the sprouts starting to grow.

2. Make a drainage hole in the bottom of a bucket. An adult should do this with a hammer and nail.

3. Place enough fresh dry soil or compost in the bucket so it is about one third full. Push in one seed potato per bucket and make sure it is covered with 1 cm soil.

4. Water the soil so it is damp, not wet. The potato does not need much water until the top is growing.

5. Place the bucket in a warm sunny spot. The plants will need sunshine – this can be indoors beside a window or outdoors. If you are growing potatoes over winter, bring them inside at night to protect the potatoes from frosts.

6. When the shoots appear keep the soil damp but not wet. If the plant is over-watered put it in the sun without extra water until it is back to being damp. Over-watering slows the plant's growth.

7. As the plants grow continue to add soil up to half way up the stems until the soil is near the top of the pot.

8. When the tops start to die off the potatoes are ready to harvest.

