
Planting Potatoes in a Container

A guide to planting and growing potatoes in above-ground containers



Steps for Success

1. Cut potatoes into pieces with at least 1 eye per piece.
2. Let pieces dry before planting.
3. Fill your container 1/3 full with potting soil.
4. Put potatoes on top of the soil with the eye facing up (keep them at least 4" from the sides of the container).
5. Cover potatoes with 2 inches of soil.
6. Water. Watering is a key to growing potatoes. Keep your soil moist, but not wet. Put your finger up to the second knuckle into the soil, and if it feels dry, go ahead and water. If it's hot or windy, you may need to water more often.
7. When your plants reach around 6 inches in height, add another couple inches of soil—covering the lower leaves of the plants. Be careful not to break off any of the leaves. Potatoes grow quickly, so you may need to add soil frequently. Use a fertilizer with balanced nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium as needed.
8. Every time the plants grow another six inches above the soil line, add 2-3 inches of soil. When the soil reaches a few inches from the top of the container, you can stop adding soil and mound it up around the base of the plant.
9. It is best to harvest potatoes when the vines begin to die back. You can dig around the soil with your hands until you find a potato, and if it is an acceptable size for you, pull it up. If you want to harvest the entire container, it's as simple as dumping your pot.