



522 Ann St PIQUA
937.773.3081

2310 W St Rt 55 TROY
937.335.5550

www.andysgarden.com

How to Plant, Harvest and Store Seed Potatoes



Yield - A good yield of potatoes will be 50-75 pounds of usable tubers from 100 feet of row.

Soil Requirements - A well-drained fine, sandy, loam soil, high in organic matter, is preferred.

Seedbed Preparation - After tilling or plowing, level the surface slightly so that furrows can be made. Some gardeners will wait a day or so after plowing before planting the seed pieces.

Soil pH and Fertilizer Practices - Liberal amounts of fertilizer are required for large yields of potatoes. Ideally, the fertilizer should be placed in continuous bands of 2 to 3 inches to each side and slightly below the seed piece. However, most gardeners will broadcast the fertilizer before plowing or spading. A typical rate would be 25 to 30 pounds of 8-16-16, 10-20-20 or equivalent per 1,000 square feet. When plants are 4 to 6 inches tall, band 2 to 3 pounds of fertilizer per 100 feet of row about 6 to 10 inches from the row if growth is not satisfactory and if foliage is yellowish-green.

Planting - Plant the seed 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 inches deep in shallow trenches and cover with an inch or two of soil. The seed pieces should be spaced 9 to 12 inches apart in rows 28 to 34 inches apart. Nine to 12 pounds of seed will be needed for each 100 feet of row when 1 1/2 to 2 ounce seed pieces are planted 12 inches apart.

Cultivation and Weed Control - Due to the small area involved and the number of other crops being grown in the garden, chemical weed control is not suggested. Cultivation should be shallow and frequent enough to control weeds. Avoid deep cultivation which cuts potato roots and slows growth. When plants are 6 to 8 inches tall, some soil should be moved toward the row to start forming a ridge. By the time the plants are 15 to 18 inches tall (last cultivation), the ridge should be 4 to 5 inches high. Ridging is necessary to prevent greening of shallow tubers.

Insect and Disease Control - Most lawn and garden stores sell approved insecticide-fungicide combinations for use on potatoes. A prevention program of spraying or dusting can start as soon as the plants emerge and continue until late summer or a few weeks before harvest. Flea beetles, leaf hoppers, aphids, and Colorado potato beetles are the major insects affecting leaves and stems. Early blight and late blight are the major foliage diseases.

Harvesting and Storage - For highest yields and best storage, potatoes should not be dug until two weeks after vines are dead. This allows the skins to set or thicken and reduces skin peeling, bruising, and rot in storage.

When harvesting at temperatures above 80°F, potatoes should be picked up immediately and put in a dark place. Potatoes exposed to sunshine (high temps) will turn green and may rot.

To store potatoes for several months, the tubers should be cured in a dark place at 60° to 65°F and humidity of 85% or higher for 10 days. After the tubers are cured or healed, keep them in a cool (40°-45°F), dark place with high humidity.



***Making the world beautiful
one flower at a time.***