

# HOW-TO-GROW SEED POTATOES

*Home-grown potatoes are fresher, more flavorful, and healthier for you. A small number of seed potatoes will yield a few buckets of potatoes ready to eat and enjoy!*

## **Soil Requirements:**

- \* Well-drained, moisture retentive, fertile soil that is high in organic matter and a pH between 5.0 and 6.0. Soil should be slightly acidic, do not add lime. We recommend mixing **BUMPER CROP** with your soil.
- \* Do not plant potatoes in the same bed as tomatoes.
- \* Potatoes should be rotated on a 3 year program. This means, you need 3 suitable sites if you want to grow potatoes every year.

## **Seed Preparation:**

- \* Set your seed potatoes in 60-70°F in full sun for 1 to 2 weeks to induce sprouting.
- \* One day before planting, take a sharp, clean knife and cut the potato into planting pieces. Each piece should be approx. 1 1/2 to 2 inch squares, and must contain at least 1 or 2 eyes. Small potatoes with a minimal amount of eyes may be planted whole.
- \* Allow seeds to dry and form a callous over their cuts.

## **Planting Instructions:**

1. Plant potatoes after your last frost date, and when the soil temp. is above 50°F.
2. Dig a trench 1 ft. deep and add **COMPOST** at the bottom of the trench.
3. Place potato seeds 3-4" deep & 18" apart inside the trench, with the cut side down & eyes pointing upwards. Cover potato seeds with about 3-4" of soil. Do not fill trench completely.
4. Depending on the soil temp., stems will emerge from the potato seeds within 2 weeks. At this time, add another 3-4" of soil to the trench.
5. Your crop of potatoes will form between the planted potato seeds and the top of the soil. When the stems are about 8 in. high, add another 3-4" of soil into the trench.
6. Add another 3-4" of soil to your trench within 2 to 3 weeks, as the stems continue to grow.
7. At this point, add a small amount of soil (1-2") as needed to ensure new potatoes are not exposed to sunlight. If new potatoes are exposed to sunlight while developing, they will turn green.
8. Water your potatoes well and frequently, and keep them weed free.

## **Harvest Time:**

- \* In general, potatoes should not be harvested until 2 weeks after the vines have died back. This allows the skin to set and reduces skin peeling, bruising, and rotting while in storage. After harvesting, immediately store in a cool, dry, dark place.
- \* Gently dig around the plant removing the largest tubers with an option of leaving the smaller ones in the ground to keep growing.
- \* For a late harvest, you may wait until 2 to 3 weeks after the foliage has died back.

