



Potato Growing in Grow Bags & Straw

Simple no-fuss method

1. Choose Potatoes

- Organic seed certified not washed with multiple eyes.
- Small varieties are best for Phoenix area - reds, Yukons, purples.
- Cut into pieces with at least one eye on each Piece - let them sit and callous over.
- Avoid store bought potatoes, because they are sprayed with a growth inhibitor.



2. Planting Season

- Best season to grow in is winter.
- Start chitting in November - December
- Chitting - pre-sprouting by using an egg carton or seed container, place in indirect sunlight for a week or two until sprouting



3. Prep Soil

- In the grow bag layer compost, vermiculite or perlite, castings, or AZWF Raised bed mix, and straw.
- Potatoes are heavy feeders and they need phosphorus and potassium.
- After a layer of compost, vermiculite, castings, & straw, add 3 - 5 cut potatoes.
- Then layer again with AZWF raised bed mix & straw.
- As the potatoes sprout and grow, cover them with additional layers of compost.

4. Hilling and Feeding

- After the potato plants have grown about 6" tall, cover them up with compost and worm castings. Be sure to cover them about $\frac{1}{3}$. You can add

additional fertilizer such as BSFL nutrient plus at this time as well. About 2 cups.

5. Growing & Harvesting

- a. Protect plants from frost by checking the weather, moving to garage, inside, or covering with frost cloth on frosty nights.
- b. Potatoes need a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight to grow well.
- c. Allow plants to flower and die back - the leaves will start to yellow and brown, that's the sign to harvest.
- d. Simply dump the bag out, harvest your potatoes, saving a few for seed potatoes.
- e. Mix the leftover soil into a compost bin or use it in your gardens.

Flowering Potatoes



Harvesting Potatoes

