

Better Harvest Farms

Seed Potato Care, Planting, and Growing Tips

This handout is intended to educate and guide. Follow these growing tips, and you'll always have a wonderful crop!

- Always plant your seed in moisture
- The coolest soil temperature recommended for planting is 55 degrees
- Always try and match your seed piece temperature to the soil temperature
 - this will elevate shock and sweating (condensation) to the seed piece
 - seed potatoes (all potatoes) are living organisms
 - they breathe through their lenticels (little small dots on skin)
- Rule of thumb for planting depth - three times the length of the seed
 - most likely, this will be close to 6"
- Do not water your plant yet - let the mother tuber (seed piece) take care of herself
- After emergence watering tips...
 - do not water often
 - when a plant needs water, give it a good soaking, but do not drown (overdue it)
 - then let it be for around 5 days (or, below 70% moisture at the seed piece)
 - do not water the leaves, water at the base of the plant if possible.
 - in the Summer air currents, there are always bacteria and fungal issues, such as late blight
 - when leaves are wet, they are more likely to pick up these spores
 - The best management practice is to keep leaves dry
 - water at night - this allows for only one (1) dew period
 - dew always occurs early in the morning, so by watering in the evening will blend with the natural dew. If watered during the day, you would have two wet (dew) cycles. It may be hard to always water in the evening, so a here and there on daytime watering is understandable, but, not best management practices
- Our seed is a smaller profile and should be planted whole
 - we do not recommend cutting the seed, not a best management practice
- If your seed piece has sprouts - do not worry about them
- If you knock off the sprouts - do not worry about it
 - note: if sprouts are knocked off, this physiologically ages the seed, causing it to put out more stems...meaning more tubers with a smaller profile - and, the energy of the seed piece is decreased some
 - seed potato pieces are hearty and vigorous, they will continue to grow and grow

Please contact us if you have any questions - we will be glad to help
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