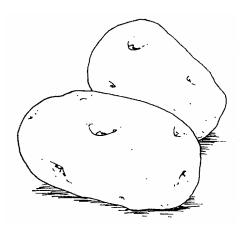
How to Plant Potatoes & Onion Sets



Potatoes

A good potato crop starts with good seed potatoes. When you buy seed potatoes, you will get some small ones. Plant these whole. Cut the bigger ones into chunky pieces with at least two or three eyes. These should be about 1½ inches square. The seed potatoes can be cut up a day before planting and allowed to heal over and dry out a little. Immediately after seed potatoes are cut up they can be doused with sulphur powder which helps keep out rot organisms.

Potatoes should be planted in good garden soil with good drainage. Plant seed potatoes 4 inches deep and 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart. Do not plant if the soil is very wet. After top growth appears, give plants an occasional soaking.

Dig early (or new) potatoes when tops begin to flower; dig mature potatoes when tops die down. Dig potatoes carefully to avoid bruises and cuts. Well-matured potatoes, free of defects, keep best in storage. Potatoes like a soil PH of 4.8 to 6.0.

Onion Sets

Plant onion sets 1 to 1¹/₂ inches deep and 2 inches apart. Start pulling green onions in 3 to 4 weeks or so; any not needed as green onions can grow on for later harvest as dry onions when tops whither. Onions are shallow rooted and need regular moisture. Feed plants, especially early in the season: the larger and stronger the plants grow the larger the bulbs they form. When most of the tops have begun to yellow and fall over, dig bulbs and let them cure and dry on top of ground for several days. Then pull off tops, clean and store in dark, cool, airy place.



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