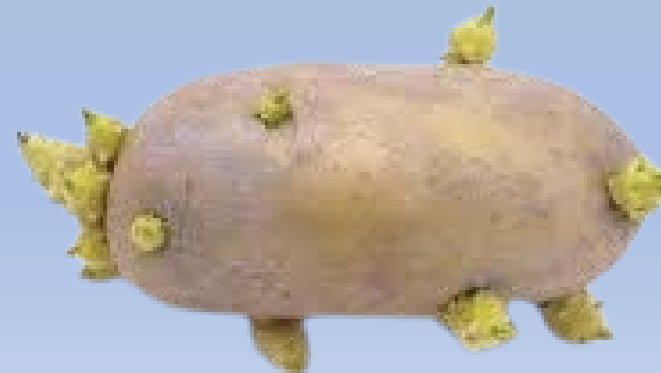




**There are many  
ways to plant  
potatoes**

# Buying potatoes

- **There are over 200 varieties of potatoes.**
- **Grocery store potatoes are often sprayed with a growth inhibitor to keep them from sprouting but if they have sprouted in your pantry go ahead and plant them.**
- **You are better off with seed potatoes from the nursery or online seed company.**
- **These potatoes are usually organic and certified disease free.**
- **I have planted grocery store potatoes but didn't get a large crop.**



# Preparing your potatoes for planting

- **You can cut the larger potatoes into sections.**
- **Each section should have a least two eyes.**
- **If the potato is the size of an egg or smaller, leave it whole.**
- **After cutting the potatoes let them cure for a few days.**
- **They will callus over and this will protect them from diseases and pests.**



# When to Plant

- **The best time for growing potatoes in zone 7 is spring. Specifically, you should sow them two weeks before the last frost.**





# Hilled Rows



**Dig straight, shallow trenches, 2 to 3 feet apart, in prepared soil. Plant seed potatoes 12 inches apart and cover with about 3 inches of soil. When the shoots reach 10 to 12 inches tall, use a hoe or shovel to scoop soil from between rows and mound it against the plants, burying the stems halfway. Repeat as needed through the growing season to keep the tubers covered.**

# Watering Potatoes

- **Potatoes can tolerate a light frost; however, they will need protection if a hard, late-season freeze occurs. If plants are killed by frost, harvest potatoes, no matter the size, within a week or two to keep them from rotting.**
- **Keep potato vines watered—about one to two inches of water or rain per week—throughout the summer, especially during the period when the plants are flowering and immediately following the flowering stage.**
- **When the foliage turns yellow and begins to die back, discontinue watering.**

# Harvesting

- **Harvest baby potatoes 2-3 weeks after the plants have finished flowering. Gently dig around the plants to remove potatoes, being careful not to be too intrusive. Remove the biggest new potatoes and leave the smaller ones in place so they can continue to grow. Harvest the rest when the plants die off.**

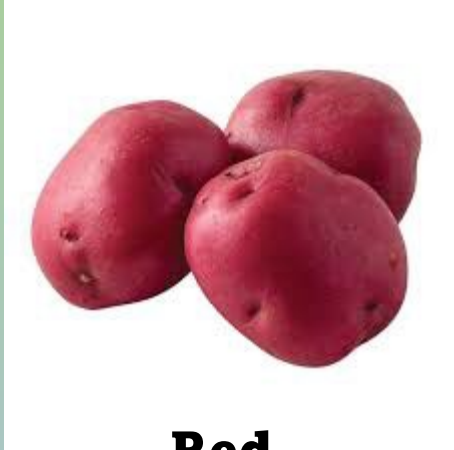


# Storing Potatoes

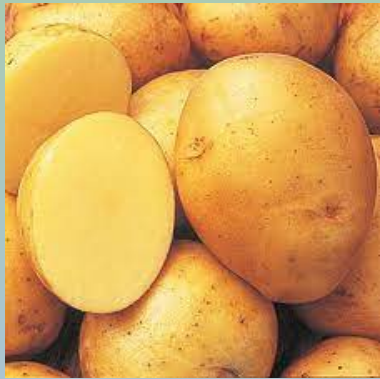
- **Storing potatoes in a cool place helps slow their rate of sprouting and maintains their vitamin C content.**
- **When stored between 43–50°F, raw potatoes will keep for many months without spoiling.**
- **Potatoes will last much longer if they remain dry during storage and are not washed until they're ready to be used.**
- **To help your potatoes last longer, keep them in an open bowl, paper bag or another container with holes for ventilation.**
- **Raw potatoes shouldn't be kept in the refrigerator**



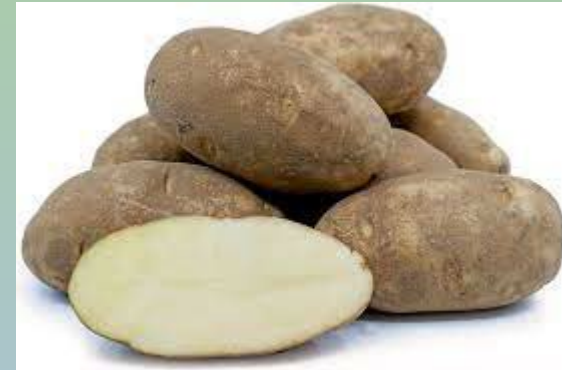
# Creative Way to Plant Potatoes



**Red**



**Yukon Gold**



**Russet**



**New Potatoes**



**Purple**

# 5 Gallon Bucket

**You will need a food grade 5 gallon bucket with holes drilled in the bottom for drainage. Add about four inches of soil. Add two potatoes sprout side up. Cover with six inches of soil. Set the bucket up on something to help with drainage. When the leaves get to the top of the bucket add more soil to about three inches from the top of the bucket.**



# Straw Mulch

**Place seed potatoes on the surface of prepared soil, following the spacing specified for hilled rows, and cover them with 3 to 4 inches of loose, seed-free straw. Mound more straw around the stems as they grow, eventually creating a layer a foot or more in depth.**



# Raised Beds

**Loosen the soil in the bottom of a half-filled raised bed. Space seed potatoes about 12 inches apart in all directions and bury them 3 inches deep. As the potatoes grow, add more soil until the bed is filled. If possible, simplify harvest by removing the sides.**





# Growing Bags

**Commercial growing bags are constructed of heavy, dense polypropylene. Put a few inches of a soil-compost mixture in the bottom of a bag, then plant 3 or 4 seed potato pieces and cover with 3 inches of soil. Continue adding soil as the plants grow until the bag is filled. To harvest, turn the bag on its side and dump out the contents.**



# Garbage Bag

**Plant a large plastic garbage bag following the instruction for a Grow Bag, punching a few holes through the plastic for drainage. Roll the top edge of the bag to help it stay upright; otherwise, the bag is prone to sag and spill soil. To harvest, rip the bag and dump out the contents.**



# Wood Box

**Build a bottomless square box possibly from lumber from discarded pallets. Plant the same as for a raised bed. The box is designed so additional slats can be screwed to the sides as the plants grow and soil is added. In theory, a bottom slat can be temporarily removed to facilitate the harvest of new potatoes. For the final harvest, tip the box and dump out its contents.**



# Happy Planting

