

JOURNEY 2 TRIP 4

HOW TO GROW YOUR OWN POTATOES

You can grow potato plants from seed potatoes, which are potatoes that have begun to sprout.



Prepare seed potatoes

1. Start the sprouting process by placing potatoes in a warm, light location for a week or two.

2. If the potato is larger than a golf ball, cut it into 2-inch pieces with a sharp knife.

3. Each piece should have at least one or two "eyes".

Plant the potatoes

1. Dig holes that are 4–6 inches deep and 12 inches apart.

2. Place the potato pieces in the holes with the "eyes" facing up.

3. Cover the potatoes with 2–3 inches of soil.

4. Water the soil well.

Care for the plants

1. As the plants grow, continue to cover them with soil, a process called "hilling".

2. Water the plants regularly, especially during and after flowering.

3. Harvest the potatoes when the leaves turn yellow and die back, usually after 70–100 days.

While it's possible to grow potatoes from potatoes you buy at the grocery store, some varieties may be patented. You can buy seed potatoes from a garden supply store.

Gardeners in warm climates oPen plant around ValenRne's Day, while those in cooler areas may get them into the ground near Easter, or early spring. A good rule of thumb is to aim for 3–4 weeks prior to your last frost date.

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