

Harlequin's Gardens

Potato Planting Instructions

Potatoes grow best in full sun.

Plant seed potatoes (pieces of potatoes or small whole potatoes – plant whole if they are smaller than a golf ball) with at least 2 eyes per piece.

If you are cutting up the potatoes, do so ahead of time (couple hours – a day prior to planting) to give them a chance to form a protective layer for moisture retention and rot resistance.

Plant when soil can be easily worked—Late March-Mid April. Plants will begin to grow when the soil temperature reaches 45 degrees. Plants can tolerate a light frost, but be prepared to cover them if a hard frost is expected.

Spread and mix compost into the bottom of a 4-6" deep planting trench. Soil should be moist, but not water-logged. Plant seed potatoes 4" deep, 1 foot apart, with the eye side up.

Potatoes thrive in LOOSE, well drained soil with consistent moisture.

When plants reach about 6" tall, cover them with light compost or straw until just the top inch or two still shows. Continue to cover the plants (called hilling) as they grow. This will result in a fairly significantly sized mound.

Harvest potatoes on a dry day. Soil should NOT be compacted, so digging should be easy, but be gentle so as not to puncture the tubers.

"New" (small) potatoes may be ready in early July. Mature potatoes should be harvested 2-3 weeks after the vines die (usually late July/early August). Brush off any soil, and store them in a cool, dry, dark place (but not in the refrigerator).

Do not store potatoes with apples as the ethylene gas produced by the apples can cause your potatoes to spoil. Do not wash potatoes until right before use.