

# GROWING SEED POTATOES



**SEED POTATOES** - If the seed potatoes are small, then it is best to plant the whole potato. If they are large, you can cut them in half or quarters. Each section should have two or three "eyes" (the bumps) for the cut surface will grow from them.

**PLANTING** - Potatoes can be grown in many different ways. They have lots of room. The soil should be about a foot deep in rows which are spaced two to three feet apart. They cover with about an inch of soil. Put in additional soil as the plants develop. Once the surface of the soil is covered with soil, this is known as another method of growing potatoes. Three or four stages of potatoes are planted in a mound of soil, called a hill, as the plants develop. You can grow potatoes in the ground, in stacks of straw or mulch, in mesh plastic bags, in surface cans or in stacks of hay. Potatoes can also be grown in rows.

**PLANTING** - This is the conventional way most potatoes are grown. Generally, the seed potatoes are planted about 12 inches apart in rows that are spaced 2 to 3 feet apart. The seed pieces are planted about 2 inch deep. They are covered with additional soil as the plants develop.

**STRAW** - For potatoes, plant potatoes in stacks of straw or other natural material. Potatoes are planted above ground in the straw, just as the plants begin to grow, additional straw or mulch is added to maintain an amount the base of the plants. This results in a crop of very clean potatoes. These potatoes can be harvested easily even before the potatoes are mature completely.

**MESH PLASTIC** or **PLASTIC SURFACE BAGS** - Surface bags or conventional surface soil can be used to grow the potatoes in the bags. Put over the top half of the bag with soil, and plant a seed potato that has three cut to half. The plastic bag can be set above ground whenever the convenient. Turn holes in the bottom of the bag for drainage. This also can plant potatoes under mesh plastic, but cover a piece of the mesh plastic, and plant a potato piece. The potato tubers will develop as they grow in the open ground. However, the tubers that develop close to the surface of the soil are affected by the mesh plastic and do not develop the green top. The surface that often are found on other tubers. The mesh plastic also will act to control weeds.

**SURFACE BAGS** or **CONTAINERS** - The surface bags or wooden or other containers are suitable for growing potatoes. If they have adequate drainage, you can conserve space by growing them in this manner. A sort of surface, though, the plants tend to be cut more rapidly when grown in containers, especially containers with no drainage. Therefore, you should be careful with container tubers.

**WATER** - High or shallow waters are potatoes to often cause the overwatering. Frequent watering causes tuberous growth of the potatoes. On a surface, water potatoes through the soil. In the warmer summer weather.

**PLANTING** - The young potatoes are harvested when they are the size of the potato plants ready to harvest. The stages of full sized potatoes harvest them when the leaves turn yellow or have died back.

**STORAGE** - Keep them in the dark, in a cool where temperatures are about 45 degrees.