



*Adding Color to Your Life*

## **Potato Tips**

Two pounds of seed potatoes can give you 50 pounds of potatoes for eating! They need sandy, fast draining soil; tubers become deformed in heavy, poorly drained soil. For early crops, plant in spring as soon as soil can be worked.

The above ground potato is sprawling, bushy, and dark green with much-divided leaves somewhat like a tomato plants. Clustered inch-wide flowers are pale blue. Round yellow or greenish fruit is very rarely seen.

Cut potatoes into chunky pieces with at least two eyes. These should be about 1½ inches square. Place chunks 4 inches deep and 1 ½ feet apart. Do not plant if 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. Store in cool (40 degrees), dark place.

Another method of planting is to prepare soil so surface is loose. Plant potato eyes ½-1 inches deep. Water well, and cover with 1-1 ½ foot layer of straw, hay, or dead leaves. Surround with fence of chicken wire to keep loose material from blowing away. Potatoes will form on surface of soil or just beneath, therefore requiring little digging. You can probe with your fingers and harvest as needed.