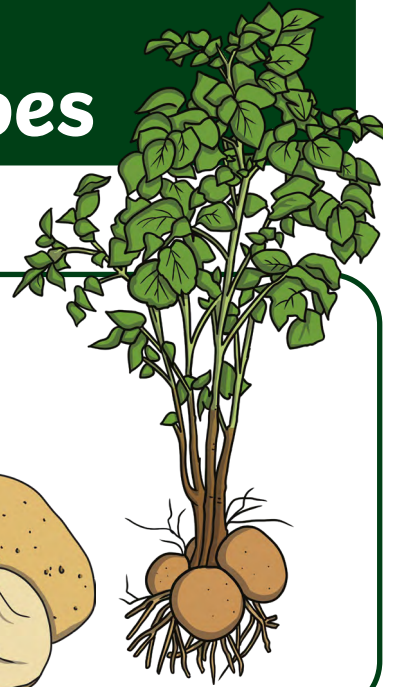
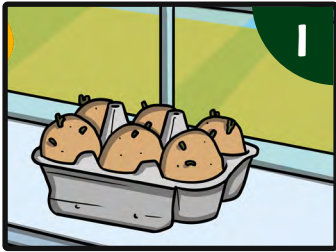


# How to Grow Potatoes

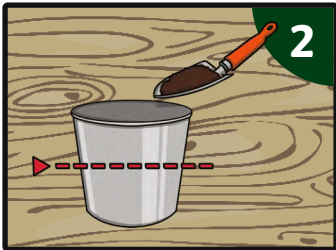


## You will need:

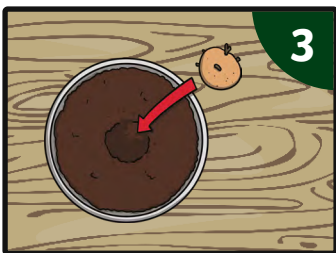
- seed potatoes
- an empty egg box
- soil
- an old towel or sheet
- a bucket or large plant pot (for each seed potato)
- a trowel
- a watering can



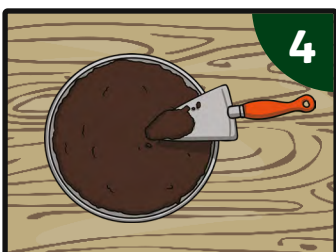
1 Place your seed potatoes into the egg box and leave on a windowsill for approximately 2-3 weeks until dark green shoots appear. This is called 'chitting.'



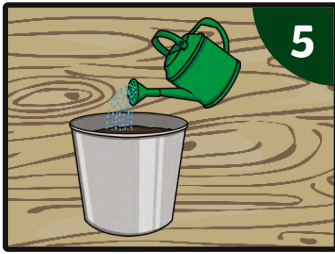
2 When a seed potato is ready to plant, fill a bucket halfway with soil. Make sure the bucket has holes in the bottom for drainage.



3 Make a hole in the soil using the trowel and place the seed potato into the hole with the shoots facing upwards.



4 Cover the potato with more soil until the shoots can no longer be seen.



Water your potato regularly.



As the shoots reappear above the soil, keep topping up the bucket with more soil so that only the top leaves are showing.



After about 8 - 10 weeks, gently move the soil away to see if your potatoes are ready - you should be able to see several small potatoes.

Take hold of the leaves and pull the plant out of the soil.



Carefully tip the bucket of soil on to an old towel or sheet to collect the rest of the potatoes.

### Top Tips:

- The amount of growing time needed changes depending on the type of potato. Sometimes, we harvest potatoes after the plants have begun to flower. Other potatoes are harvested after the plants have wilted.
- If planting outside, allow 30cm between each seed potato.
- Take care not to overwater your potato plant when it is growing.
- Wash your potatoes before cooking them.
- Potatoes need plenty of space to grow. However, the number of seed potatoes that can be planted will depend on the size of the bucket and the variety of the potato. As a guide, you can fit 1 to 2 seed potatoes in a five gallon bucket.
- The process of adding soil around the stems is called 'hilling'. It stops the potatoes from being exposed to the light and turning green.