

### 99 Pounds of Potatoes in 4 Easy Steps

Container gardening isn't only for savvy urban gardeners and folks with limited space, it is also for those who want to maximize their yields. Not only does growing potatoes in a container reduce the amount of weeding and exposure to pests and fungi, you no longer risk shovel damage to your harvest by digging them out of the ground. Just tip the container over and potatoes are yours to enjoy!

#### Step 1 – Select & Prepare a Container

You can choose a container from a 50 gallon trash can, half whiskey barrel, plastics, to beautiful glazed pots. Any 2-3' foot tall container works, just make sure the bottom of your container has drainage holes for water to seep out of.

#### Step 2 - Choose a variety and plant potatoes

Seed potatoes arrive at the garden center in late winter to early spring. (February – March). Buy them as early as possible before their freshness is picked over by other savvy smart gardeners.



Cut large seed potatoes into pieces with at least two eyes. Plant small seed potatoes whole. Allow cut surfaces to dry for about one week prior to planting.

Fill in the bottom of your pot with 6" inches of Watters Potting Soil. Do NOT use garden soil or manure based products in containers or production drops dramatically.

Plant your seed potatoes leaving plenty of room between each potato. Loosely back-fill the potatoes with another 6" inches of potting soil and water to dampen. Keep the soil damp making sure not to over water creating soggy soil.

#### Step 3 - Add More Potting Soil

When your potatoes grow 6 to 8 inches of foliage, add another layer of potting soil covering about 1/2 to 3/4 of the visible stems and foliage. Repeat this process of allowing the sprouts to grow and then covering the sprouts and dampening the soil as the plants grow up toward the top of the container.



#### Step 4 – 99 Pounds of Potatoes

potatoes should be ready to harvest in about 10 weeks or when the plants flower and start to yellow. Carefully dig down with your hands to inspect the top-most layer. After you have confirmed your suspicions, dump the barrel out on a tarp and inspect your bounty.

**Plant Food for larger potatoes** - Sprinkle a few tablespoons of Watters “All Purpose Plant Food” 7-4-4 as the sprouts reach the top of the container. Organic 'Fish Fertilizer' is also highly recommended for better potatoes.

