

Science - Year 1

Plants – Block 1P

What's growing in our gardens?

Session 2

Resource Pack

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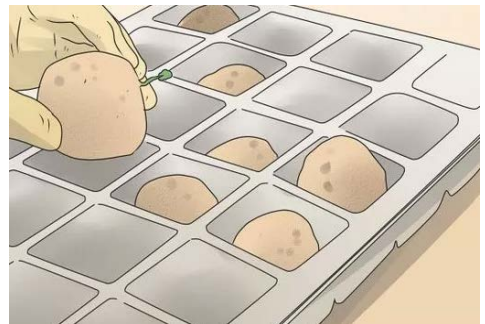
How to chit potatoes

Chitting refers to the method of getting potatoes to sprout in a few weeks before you're ready to plant them. It speeds up the growing or aging process so the potatoes will be ready sooner than they would be. Chitting takes about 6 weeks.



Use seed potatoes. These are potatoes specifically sold for the purpose of planting, rather than cooking and eating. You can buy them at garden centres. Potatoes bought in shops are sprayed with chemicals that keep them from sprouting.

Plan to chit potatoes about 6 weeks before planting.



Place the potatoes in an egg tray to keep them upright. Keep the potatoes separate from each other. Make sure their eyes are facing upwards. The eyes are the small indentations on the potatoes where the sprouts will emerge. They need to be facing up, so that the sprouts will get access to sunlight and air circulation. The opposite side of the potato is the part where it was cut from the stem, and that part should be facing down.



You will need to plant the potatoes shoot side up, 2-5 cm deep. Space them about 10 cm apart, making sure the shoots are facing up. You can plant entire seed potatoes or cut them into pieces so that each one has 2 or more shoots.