

Potato

Solanum tuberosum · Nightshade family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Annual, grown from seed tuber
MATURITY 70–120 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Consistent



SOIL PH
5.0–6.5



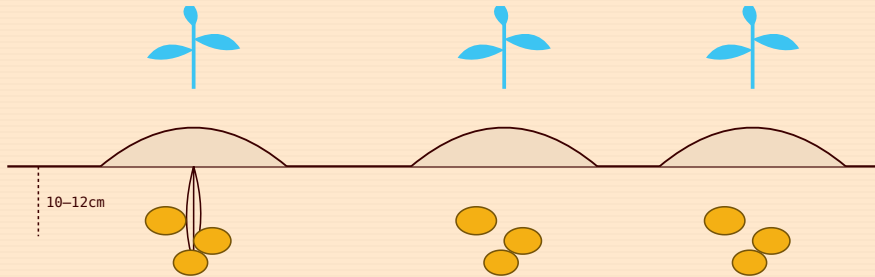
SPACING
30cm × 75cm



DEPTH
10–12cm

01 Planting & hilling

Plant seed tubers 10–12cm deep. As shoots reach 20cm, mound soil around the base — **hilling** protects tubers from sun (which turns them green and toxic) and encourages a larger yield along the buried stem.



02 Planting

METHOD	Chit seed tubers 2–3 weeks before planting in a cool, bright spot until short sprouts form.
SOIL	Loose, well-drained, high organic matter. Avoid fresh manure — it encourages scab.
TIMING	Plant after last frost once soil reaches ~10°C.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply and evenly — irregular watering causes hollow heart and knobby tubers.
- Hill soil every 2–3 weeks until foliage closes over.
- Feed with a low-nitrogen, potassium-rich fertiliser once flowering begins.
- Mulch with straw to retain moisture and suppress light reaching tubers.

04 Problems

- Blight** — dark leaf lesions in wet weather; improve airflow, avoid overhead watering.
- Potato moth** — larvae tunnel tubers; keep well hilled and mulched.
- Scab** — corky patches from alkaline, dry soil; keep pH below 6 and water consistently.
- Green tubers** — sun exposure; hill promptly, do not eat green parts.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Foliage yellows and dies back for main crop; flowering for new "chat" potatoes.
METHOD	Fork gently from the outside of the hill inward to avoid piercing tubers.
CURING	Dry in a dark, airy spot 1–2 weeks to toughen skins before storage.
STORAGE	Cool (4–10°C), dark, ventilated. Keeps 4–6 months. Never refrigerate raw.
PRESERVING	See Root Cellaring (cool, dark storage without processing) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.
RECIPES	Try our Garlic & Herb Roast Potatoes — a way to use a glut.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Beans

Corn

Brassicas

Marigold

Horseradish

AVOID NEARBY

Tomato

Cucumber

Pumpkin

Sunflower

ROTATION NOTE

Avoid planting after other nightshades (tomato, capsicum, eggplant) for 2–3 years to reduce shared soil-borne disease.