Growing Potatoes
Step – by – Step

Pre-Planting
1. Buy certified seed potatoes.
2. Pre-sprout, if necessary 1-2 weeks before planting date.
3. Two days before planting, cut seeds into 1 ½” to 2” pieces, or leave small potatoes whole. Be sure you have 1-3 eyes on each seed piece.
4. Allow 2 days to form scab over cut area.

Planting
5. Dig a hole or trench 4” – 6” deep. Be sure there are several inches beneath the seed for the root to grow.
6. Add fertilizer and compost to bottom of hole; cover with 2” – 3” of soil.
7. Plant seed with eyes facing upward, cut side down.
8. Cover with 3” – 4” of soil. Enough soil so seed will not be exposed to light.

Care
9. About 2 weeks later, when sprouts emerge, add 3” – 4” more soil.
10. When sprouts are 2” – 4” out of the soil, add soil half way up stem. Lightly fertilize soil before adding to plant.
11. Repeat this process as the stems poke through several inches, continuing to “hill” them up as high as possible.
12. Thereafter add an inch or two every week, be sure to keep the tubers covered to avoid sun exposure. No fertilizer.
13. Be sure to give adequate water when plants flower, but not soggy.
14. When foliage turns yellow and dies back, STOP WATERING.

Harvest
15. Begin harvesting potatoes 2 – 3 weeks after plants die back. Try to harvest when soil is dry and loose.
16. Harvest carefully, do not bruise or cut tubers). Gently remove excess soil. Do not wash.
17. Dry for 2-3 days in a cool, dry, dark place. This allows skin to mature.
18. Clean remaining excess soil off gently with a paper towel. Do not wet.
19. Store undamaged potatoes in a dark, well-ventilated, cool location for 3 – 6 months.
20. Plant on a three year rotation.