



## GROWING YOUR POTATOES

**General Information:** Known throughout the world as a staple food that can be prepared and eaten a number of different ways, potatoes can be grown in most parts of Australia and will be ready to harvest 60-90 frost free days after planting. Before planting, spread potatoes out in a well-lit place for several weeks so they get some short thick sprouts. Tubers can be cut so one or two eyes are evident on each piece but ensure cut pieces are allowed to dry before planting to minimise risk of rotting. Also, cutting into pieces too small can reduce the yield. Plant tubers about 15cm deep in the soil and then cover with 25-30cm of mulch. **Soil:** Well drained, humus rich soil is required, but can also be grown in 'no dig' tyres, drums and large pots.

**Watering:** Need to be kept well watered. Potatoes will grow for longer periods of time when soil temperatures remain low and soil is moist, this results in a bigger harvest too. **Fertilising:** Prepare soil with a well-rotted animal manure or complete fertiliser before planting. Mulch over the emerging shoots with a deep straw mulch to encourage the formation of more tubers and to ensure the roots are not exposed to the sun. Liquid feed 3-4 times during the growing season. **Pruning/Harvest:** Harvest when the leaves begin to die back, dry tubers as quickly as possible and store in a dark cool place. Potatoes exposed to light will turn green and these potatoes are poisonous and should not be eaten under any circumstances. Potatoes harvested early as 'new' potatoes do not store well. **Pests:** Potatoes suffer from many pests and diseases; rotating crops every 3-4 yrs to avoid build up of pests and diseases in the soil and growing only Certified Seed Potatoes will help to avoid this. Likes long periods of mild weather; this will help to build a good crop. ♡ **Tips:** Potatoes can be grown all year round in areas without heavy frost but as the weather gets warmer the risk of pest and disease increase.



**Divide your seed potatoes as per diagrams.**