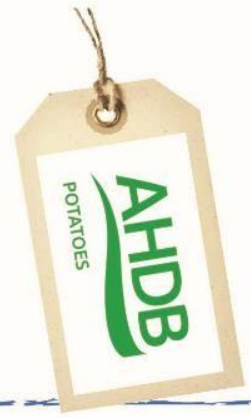


GROW YOUR OWN POTATOES



Factsheet 4: Grow potatoes investigation

Growing your own potatoes in schools and find out what they need to thrive.

This activity is separate to the GYOP project and will require the following additional resources:

- 4 seed potatoes
- 4 large 10 litre pots (you could use buckets)
- Crocks – bits of broken plant pots or pebbles
- Soil or compost to fill the pots

Method:

- 1 Leave your potatoes in a warm, dry, light place to chit or sprout.
- 2 Put your crocks in the bottom of your pots or buckets and then half-fill them with soil or compost.
- 3 Plant the potatoes with most of the shoots pointing upwards.
- 4 Cover the potatoes nearly to the top. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling the potatoes and soil.
- 5 Number the pots from 1 to 4 and follow the instructions below for each pot.

POT 1

Will it need air?

Water and then place a clear polythene bag over the top.
Secure it with an elastic band to keep out the air.
Leave Pot 1 in the light.

POT 2

Will it need light?

Water and then place in a lightproof box.
Keep Pot 2 in the dark.

POT 3

Will it need water?

Do not water Pot 3.
Leave it in the light.

POT 4

Will it need air, light and water?

Water and then leave in the light.
Pot 4 is known as the control.

- 6 Remember to water potatoes regularly – except for Pot 3.
- 7 Observe your potatoes regularly to find out which grows best.
You can use Potato investigation worksheet 4 or 5 to record your findings.

