



Spuds in Tubs

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**A Step by Step Guide to
Growing Potatoes with your Class**

Spuds in Tubs

Stage 1.

Things you should know and do BEFORE SPRING BREAK

BEFORE PLANTING SEED POTATOES

1. Attend the workshop in your area.
2. Pick up materials for YOUR classroom:
 - 5 large black nursery tubs
 - 13 bags of soil
 - 25 Warba seed potatoes in special bag
 - 1 container of Potato Plant Food with a scoop inside (4 tbsp)
 - 1 Step by Step guidebook
 - 1 plastic drop sheet
 - 5 AITC rulers
 - 1 "Grow BC" map
 - 1 Class Set of "I Can Grow Food!" stickers
 - 1 related BC Agriculture in the Classroom Unit Plan
 - 1 Dig in for Dinner poster
3. Leave seed potatoes in their bag in your warm classroom to encourage sprouting.
4. Measure the sprouts. When they are 2 cm long (or longer), proceed to stage 2. Remove the biggest and most dominant sprout so the others will grow and give you more potatoes.



measuring up the sprouts on the potatoes

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Stage 2.

Things you should know and do BEFORE SPRING BREAK

PLANTING SEED POTATOES IN TUBS

5. When planting in tubs indoors, lay the plastic drop sheet on the floor to protect the floor.
6. Empty one bag of soil into each tub.
7. Mix 1 scoop (4 tablespoons) of Potato Plant Food thoroughly into the soil for each tub.
8. Dig five small wells in the soil of each tub evenly in a circle around the tub, about 10 cm from the outside edge.
9. Place five seed potatoes into the small wells from step 8, sprouts facing UPWARDS.
10. Cover the potatoes with more soil from the tub.
11. Choose a cool, safe INDOOR location for the tubs.
12. Give your tubs a good drink of water.



place potatoes in tub like this



Stage 3.

Things you should know and do AFTER SPRING BREAK

GROWING & HILLING (Keeping the potato sprouts covered with soil)

Your students will be surprised to see how much their spuds have grown.

1. As the potato sprouts grow, add soil to cover most of the stem, leaving a few leaves from each sprout stretching above the soil.
2. Watch the potato sprouts daily. As they grow, add more soil around the stem.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until the tubs are filled to the top with soil.

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watching the potatoes sprouts grow

Stage 4.

Things you should know and do AFTER SPRING BREAK

READY TO MOVE TUBS OUTSIDE

1. Measure plants. When the largest plant reaches 15 cm above the rim of the tub and weather permitting, proceed to step 2.
2. Sprinkle another scoop of Potato Plant Food on the top of the soil.
3. Gently scratch the surface to work it into the soil.
4. Move the tubs to a safe OUTDOOR location that includes:
 - a. A south-facing wall that will absorb heat and light from the sun
 - b. Protection from the wind
 - c. If a. and b. are impossible, perhaps a neighbor will keep them on their property in similar conditions
5. For the first week, loosely drape the drop sheet provided over the tender potato plants for the night to protect them from frost. Be sure to remove the sheet during the day to avoid burning the plants from direct sunlight.



measuring the potato plants

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Stage 5.

Things you should know and do AFTER SPRING BREAK

SPUDS IN TUBS LIVING OUTSIDE - When to water?

1. Check to see if the plants are dry by feeling the soil or observing if the soil is pulling away from the side of the tub.
 - Wilted potatoes will slow down production, so water well when the pots are dry.
 - If there is water running out of the drainage holes, the plants have enough water.
 - A fun way to check if the tubs need water is to have your students plunge a finger into the soil being careful not to harm the plants. If their finger comes out with soil stuck to it then the tub should not need water. If their fingers are clean then the soil is dry and it is time to water the tubs.
2. Have your students check to see what other creatures have made the tubs their home. e.g., under the tubs, on the plant etc.



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ladybug



aphids



ant



earth worm



watering....and other creatures

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Stage 6.

Things you should know and do BEFORE SCHOOL ENDS

READY TO HARVEST (early to mid June)

1. You will know it is time to harvest because the plants will wilt and turn yellow.
2. If the plants do not wilt and turn yellow, you will still have to harvest them.



harvesting the potato plants

Stage 7.

Things you should know and do BEFORE SCHOOL ENDS

HARVESTING

1. Lay out the plastic drop sheet on the ground.
2. Tip the tubs onto the plastic sheet.
3. Count the number of spuds in your tubs!
4. See if the students can find their original seed potato.
5. The leftover soil can be added to existing shrub beds in a sunny location around the school in anticipation of the "Planting a Promise" Program.
6. Wash the tubs and put away to re-use next Spring.

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harvesting the potatoes

Stage 8.

Things you should know and do BEFORE SCHOOL ENDS

ENJOYING THE HARVEST!

1. Wash the potatoes thoroughly, scrubbing off all the soil.
2. Steam or boil the potatoes until they pierce easily with a fork.
Keep warm in a crock pot if you need to delay eating.
3. Add butter. Serve and enjoy!



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enjoying the harvest!