

## Potato planting notes - 2018:

Cut larger potatoes 5-7 days before planting (at least 1-2 eyes/piece), keep at 60-70 degrees. Dust with sulfur when cutting (esp) to help prevent disease.

in Chatham, plant mid March (about 4 weeks before last frost) – like cooler weather, but not freezing.

pH of 5-6 (other ref = 5.8-6.5). We added a bit of sulfur on March 10.

Plant about 12” apart, rows 24-30” apart.

- Dig a furrow and plant with cut side down/shoots up – 3-5” deep (later planting at 5-6” deep).
- Put bone meal in hole first about 2 tbsp.) - or could have used a fertilizer high in phosphorus (10/20/10) @1 tbsp per 10 ft row
- Just cover with soil

Consider row covers to protect from frost damage – and protect from potato bugs (late April on). Potatoes don’t require pollination.

As they grow:

- Weeding – rake the surface to kill newly sprouted weeds – as potatoes grow be sure NOT to weed too close to the plants so the tubers are not damaged
- Hilling – prevents exposure to sun and “greening” – check weekly and add up to 6-8” as they grow
- Side dress with fertilizer high in nitrogen at about 6 weeks when tubers are forming (33-0-0) @ 5 tbsp per 10 ft row
- Water is critical when blossoms are forming, and don’t let them dry out. Prefer a lower temperature (mulching is possible)

70-110 days harvest –

After leaves turn yellow, allow to get drier, and skin to toughen a bit (2-3 weeks). If skin rubs right off, leave for a few more days

fertilizer – heavy feeders.

At planting – 5-10-10 or 1 tbsp 10-20-10 per 10’ of row

High nitrogen at 6 weeks post planting – 5 tbsp/10 ‘ of row

Briar Patch bed for 2018: Bed approx. 11’ by 15’ = 5 rows at 14’

For 2018, we bought:

- French fingerlings - We have 14 potatoes to plant, about 0.8 pounds. They were pretty small, so I didn't cut them into pieces.
- Austrian crescent fingerlings - We have 14 pieces, these were much larger, so I purchased seven totaling about 1.2 pounds, and cut them in half.
- Rose Finn apple fingerlings - We have 16 pieces, about 0.8 pounds. These were also larger and cut into pieces.
- Banana fingerlings - We have 15 pieces, about 0.9 pounds. Also a bit larger and cut into pieces.
- Jester potatoes (not fingerlings) - We have 13 seed potatoes, about 1.2 pounds.

To prepare them, I cut them about 5 days before planting and kept them in cooler part of our basement (should be 60-70 degrees). After cutting (or not), I put them into a paper bag with a bit of sulfur to dust them to help prevent disease – most important with the cut ends, then spread out in a dark location with circulation to dry.

For some more info on descriptions, planting, uses, and/or some recipes:

- French fingerlings: [http://www.specialtyproduce.com/produce/French\\_Fingerling\\_Potatoes\\_477.php](http://www.specialtyproduce.com/produce/French_Fingerling_Potatoes_477.php)
- Banana fingerlings: [http://www.specialtyproduce.com/produce/Russian\\_Banana\\_Fingerling\\_Potatoes\\_5045.php](http://www.specialtyproduce.com/produce/Russian_Banana_Fingerling_Potatoes_5045.php)
- Rose Finn apple fingerlings <https://www.burpee.com/vegetables/potatoes/potato-rose-finn-apple-prod000852.html>
- Austrian crescent fingerlings: <https://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/potato-austrian-crescent#!growguide>
- Jester:
  - DESCRIPTION: Purple with yellow around the eyes and variegated purple and yellow flesh
  - TUBER CHARACTERISTICS: Small round tuber with medium shallow eyes
  - STRENGTHS: Uniform shaped tubers, maintains skin color in storage, high marketable yield. Easy to manage size profile
  - MATURITY: Early YIELD: High for a small/mini production
  - CULINARY QUALITY: Roasted, boiled and steamed
  - WEAKNESSES: Sensitive to PVY and common scab, requires sprout inhibitor in storage