

# TUCKER FARMS, INC.

G A B R I E L S , N E W Y O R K

Home of the Great Adirondack Corn Maze™ and TuckerTaters™

## Planting Instructions for TuckerTaters Seed Potatoes

**1** If you decide not to plant all of the potatoes in your order, please know you can eat any left over. TuckerTaters™ seed potatoes taste are as nutritious as any potatoes you can buy.

**2** For best results, until planting time, TuckerTaters™ seed potatoes should be stored in a cool, dark, moist (humid) place safe from freezing. About a week before planting warm them up to 60 to 70 °F.

**3 Ground Preparation:** Planting can start two weeks before average last frost. Work (loosen) garden bed up to a depth of 7" to 9". Broadcast 25 pounds of 5-10-10 fertilizer per hundred linear feet of row. (Twenty pounds of seed potatoes will plant 130 linear feet.) Work the fertilizer (and compost) into the soil.



**4 Seed Preparation:** Seed potatoes should be cut into 2 oz. pieces (about the size of a golf ball), each with at least one eye, up to 3 eyes. Larger tubers can be cut into 3 or 4 or even more pieces, but make sure each has eyes. After cutting the seed, plant directly into warm moist (not wet) soil. If planting is not

possible then, 'cure' the seed at 50 to 60 °F with high humidity and ample air circulation for 3 to 4 days.



**5 Planting:** For row planting, open a trench about 4" deep, place seed pieces in trench about 8" apart and cover with 3 or 4 inches of soil.

**6 Insect and Fungus Control:** During the growing season, insect and disease control may be necessary. Consult your local extension service or garden shop for organic or natural or conventional methods of dealing with them.

**7 Care of Plants:** Cultivate frequently to control weeds. Pull soil up around potato plants as they grow. This gradual process is called hilling. It is important to keep potato tubers covered with soil to avoid exposure to sunlight and to avoid greening (sunburn) of the tubers. If you can see the tubers, cover them

with soil—direct sunlight is their enemy.

**8 Water:** Like Goldilocks' porridge, watering of potatoes needs to be 'just right'. There are many factors. It may be best to consult your extension agent or local garden center for advice.

**9 Harvest:** Most potato varieties mature in 100 to 120 days. Potato vines will begin to yellow, wither and die once the plants mature. One can safely harvest one's potatoes for winter storage two weeks after vine die-off. However, one can harvest 'early' potatoes for the table after 60 days or so by carefully taking a few tubers without disturbing the plants, leaving the others to grow to full size and maturity.

**10 Storage:** To store potatoes for the winter, do not wash them, but simply dry them off and gradually cool them down with a fan. Take several weeks to bring them down to storage temperature of 50 degrees or so. Potatoes must be stored in the dark, at very high humidity—the higher the better, but no liquid moisture.



Buy Local. Buy Pride of New York.

All TuckerTaters seed potatoes are grown and packed by Tucker Farms, Inc.

Photo credits: Thomas D. Tucker

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11 May 2014