

## Sweet Potato Planting Guide

- **Soil & Soil Preparation:** Sweet Potatoes are grown in every state and well-prepared soil of every type produces the best results. Lots of loose soil in a well-prepared ridge gives the potatoes a place to grow. Rows should be about 36 inches apart and fertilizer can be added as the rows are made.
- **Planting:** "Set" plants about 12" apart as soon as possible...preferably near sundown to avoid exposure to the hot sun. If weather or other conditions prevent immediate planting, place roots in real wet, muddy soil in a shady spot or place roots in fresh, cool water. After planting, cultivate or mulch to minimize weed competition and irrigate if soil becomes too dry.
- **Maturity:** Simply examine an average hill and if they have reached desirable size, they are ready to be harvested.
- **Digging and Storing:** Use care in taking the potatoes from the ground, being careful not to bruise them. After digging, dry potatoes thoroughly and then store at 55 to 60 degrees. Do not handle the potatoes again until you are ready to prepare them for the table.
- **Note:** Many gardeners "set" their plants and "dig" their potatoes with no cultivation. Sweet potatoes are very easy to grow!



## Sweet Potato Casserole

- 3 cups hot sweet potatoes, mashed
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla

Mix and pour in a casserole dish.

### Topping:

- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup plain flour
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine (not melted)
- 1 cup nuts (chopped)

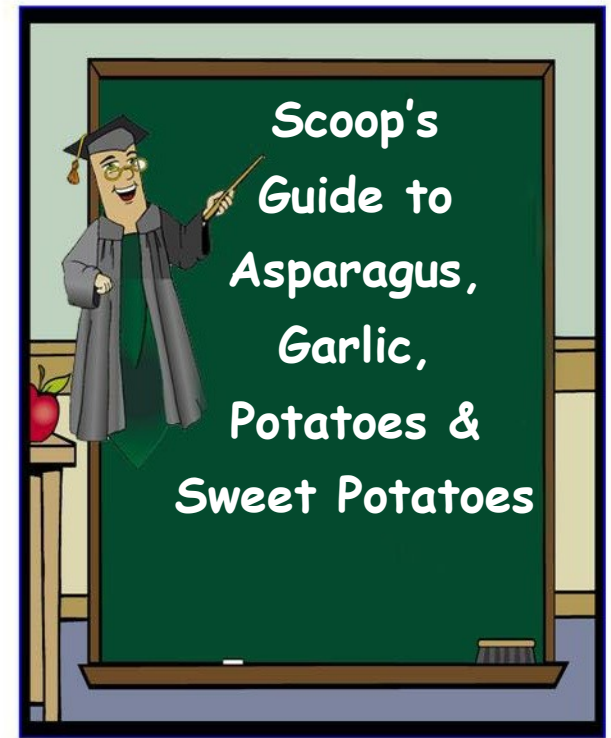
Mix topping with fork and sprinkle crumbs on top of casserole. Bake uncovered 350 degrees for about 25 minutes.

This recipe won First Prize at the "Tater town special" Sweet Potato Bake off held at Tater town, USA 38229



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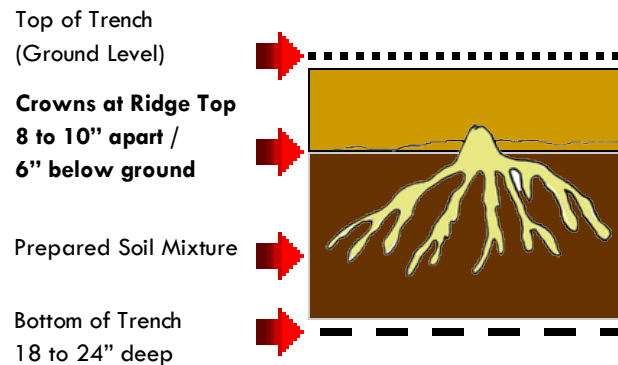
## Potato Planting Guide

- Depending on the season, 1 lb of planted potatoes will usually yield approx. 15 lbs.
- Store potatoes in a cool, dry place until planting.
- All tubers less than 2" in diameter may be planted whole (as they are).
- For larger tubers, cut the potatoes so that each piece will contain at least 2 eyes.
- Although some suggest a period of "healing" after cutting, it is not a necessary practice.
- Distance between rows is recommended to be 30"-36".
- Dig a shallow trench about 3" deep (3" wide at the bottom also).
- Plant your seed potatoes 10"-14" apart.
- Use a rake to carefully cover the pieces immediately after planting.
- A small mound (1") can be made over the row. Do not plant or cover too deep-4" is ideal!
- Shoots should emerge approximately 2 weeks after planting depending on weather conditions.
- After young shoots are 4"- 5" high, hill them with a rake or hoe (both sides of the plant) leaving about 1" of plant exposed.
- This procedure should be repeated periodically to protect potato tubers from sunlight.
- Be careful to avoid damaging the tubers with your rake or hoe while cultivating or hilling.
- Early varieties may be harvested in approx. 50 -60 days for fresh table use.
- Later varieties intended for winter storage and use may be harvested when vines are matured (dead) which may be encouraged by a heavy frost.
- If there are no frosts before Sept. 20, remove vines by hand taking care not to pull tubers from the ground.
- Leave tubers in the ground 2 weeks to "set" the skins and then harvest.
- Store in a cool, semi-damp location for best storage life.

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## Asparagus Planting

- Select location - Asparagus plants can live 15 - 20 years, so you will need a permanent out-of-the way location that receives 7 to 8 hours of sunlight a day. A sandy soil with a pH of around 7.0 will work best.
- Prepare the soil - Dig a trench approx. 18 - 24" deep and approx. 12" wide and remove the soil. Prepare a rich soil mixture of 1 part loamy Top Soil, 1 part Peat Moss and 2 parts Compost & Manure. Refill the bottom of the trench with the blended mixture as a mounded ridge to within about 8" of the soil surface. The idea is to create a ridge down in the middle of the trench to place the asparagus root on. This would be a good time to add fertilizer.



- Plant the Asparagus - Roots should be planted 8 - 10" apart in rows 30" apart. Place the asparagus roots on top of the mounded ridge in the trench. Place the long tentacles in first and spread them out as much as possible over the mounded ridge. The pointed part of the asparagus root is the crown and should be facing upward. The tentacle parts of the root may touch, but shouldn't be crammed in the trench. **The top of the asparagus crown after being placed on the mounded ridge should now be approx. 6" below the soil surface.** Cover the crown with about 3" of the earlier prepared soil mixture. As the asparagus crowns send up initial shoots, fill the remaining 3" of trench around the new shoots with rich soil mixture up to ground level.
- Give your new asparagus patch a generous drink of water. Remember asparagus plants like moist soil.

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## Garlic Information

- Buy and plant garlic plants in early spring or as bulbs in late fall. Late fall planted cloves should be placed directly in the ground about six weeks before the soil freezes.
- Choose a site that gets full sun. Though garlic will grow in soil with any pH from 5.0 to 8.0, it does best in the slightly acid range (6.2 to 6.8).
- Dig to a depth of 6 to 8", and amend the soil with plenty of compost to ensure the ideal combination of fertility, good drainage and moisture retention.
- Remove all traces of weeds; they'll easily win out over garlic's grasslike foliage.
- Separate the bulb of garlic into cloves. Plant only the largest cloves and discard any that are pitted or tinged blue-green - both are signs of mold.
- Set unpeeled cloves, pointy end up, 2" deep & 5" apart.
- Top-dress the plants with compost, and mulch to retain moisture and deter weeds. Mulch again after the ground freezes to protect plants from the cold.
- To ensure large bulbs, cut back any flower stalks or seed heads that developed.
- Provide an inch of water a week until the foliage turns yellow or falls over - indications that bulbs are nearing maturity.
- Clip garlic leaves to use any time, but remove no more than 1/4 of a plant's top growth or you'll reduce bulb size. Dig out bulbs when about 3/4 of the tops are yellow.
- Dry bulbs with tops on before storing.
- After the bulbs have dried, the tops and roots can be removed with shears to within an inch of the bulbs. It is essential that the garlic be well cured before going into storage. The mature bulbs are best stored at 32 degrees F.