

## Growing Potatoes

Potatoes are a crop that do really well here and that many people like to grow. They are relatively easy to grow there are just a few things that you need to know. Lime or wood ash should never be added to the soil where potatoes will be planted because this will raise the pH. Potatoes are definitely an acid loving plant; in fact they are acid dependent. A pH of 5 – 5.5 is ideal for potato production, higher pH or basic soil will produce scabs. For best results Tiger 90/ sulphur should be added at planting time as well as 6-20-20 or 8-24-24 fertilizer. Potatoes don't require much nitrogen, as nitrogen will simply grow large tops not large potatoes. Also by keeping your top size to a minimum you reduce the chance of spreading blight. Rotating your crop and keeping your rows spaced far apart will also reduce blight. When you prepare your rows for planting leave a 12" wide depression the length of your seedling row, this will make hilling easier. Hilling (hoeing soil around base of plant) should be done at least twice per season; this prevents sunburn on potatoes close to the surface. Hilling will also cut down on your weeds.

- Norlands make good large and small potatoes depending on when you harvest them.
- Shepody sunburn easily but are a nice potato.