

HOW TO BUILD A POTATO TOWER

A potato tower is a space-saving and labor-reducing way to grow potatoes. It is a method of growing potatoes vertically in a cylinder of soil held together by a straw-lined wire cage.

What you need:

- 66"-75" (for a 20"-24" diameter tower) wire fence, 3' tall
- Two 4' stakes
- Wire or zip ties
- 9.5 cubic feet of rich, loose soil
- Straw
- Approximately 40+ potato starts/eyes
- *Optional:* 3.5' drip hose. End cap on one end and hose thread female on the other (*You can always water by hand instead*)

How to build it:

1. Roll the 66"-75" piece of wire fencing to form a cylinder or "tower". Connect with zip ties or short pieces of wire.
2. Place the tower in a sunny and accessible location and position the stakes opposite each other inside the empty tower.
3. Remove the wire tower and drive the stakes into the ground until the tops of the stakes are just below the top of the wire tower.
4. Replace the tower over the stakes and wire or zip tie the tower to the stakes.
5. Place irrigation in the center of the tower with the end cap at bottom of tower and hose thread at the top.
6. Line the bottom 6" of the perimeter of the tower with straw (not more than 1" thick).
7. Fill the area inside the straw with soil while keeping the irrigation in place (the center).
8. Add eight potato starts, evenly spaced around the perimeter of the soil, with the eyes facing the straw.
9. Water.
10. Add another six inch section of straw, fill with soil, plant with potato starts.
11. Water.
12. Repeat this (while keeping the irrigation in the center) so that there are potato plantings at 6", 12", 18", 24" and 30" measuring from the bottom of the tower, up.
13. There should be a 6" layer of soil at the top of the tower.