

Here is a guide for growing Picasso Maincrop potatoes:
By Robert Chalmers

1. Choose the right seed potatoes.

Picasso potatoes are a main crop variety, which means they take longer to mature than early potatoes. They are also resistant to blight and drought, so they are a good choice for beginner gardeners.



2. Prepare the soil.

Picasso potatoes prefer a well-drained, fertile soil. If your soil is heavy clay, you can improve drainage by adding sand or compost.



3. Plant the potatoes.

Plant the potatoes in spring, when the soil has warmed up to at least 60°F. Dig a trench about 6 inches deep and 12 inches wide. Place the potatoes in the trench, with the eyes facing upwards. Cover the potatoes with soil, leaving about 2 inches of the shoots exposed.



4. Water the potatoes regularly.

Picasso potatoes need about 1 inch of water per week. Water deeply and infrequently, to encourage deep root growth.



5. Mulch around the potatoes.

Mulching will help to keep the soil moist and suppress weeds. You can use straw, wood chips, or bark mulch.



6. Hill up the potatoes.

As the potatoes grow, hill up the soil around them. This will help to protect the developing tubers from frost and pests.



7. Harvest the potatoes.

Picasso potatoes are ready to harvest in late summer or early fall. When the leaves start to turn yellow, it is time to dig up the potatoes. Use a garden fork to carefully loosen the soil around the potatoes, then lift them out of the ground.



8. Store the potatoes. Picasso potatoes can be stored for several months in a cool, dark place.



Tips:

- Picasso potatoes are a good choice for intercropping with other vegetables, such as tomatoes, carrots, or onions.
- To prevent pests, you can spray the potatoes with a neem oil solution.
- If you live in an area with a short growing season, you can start the potatoes indoors in pots a few weeks before planting time.

With a little care and attention, you can enjoy a bountiful harvest of Picasso potatoes this summer!