

**GROW YOUR
OWN POTATOES**

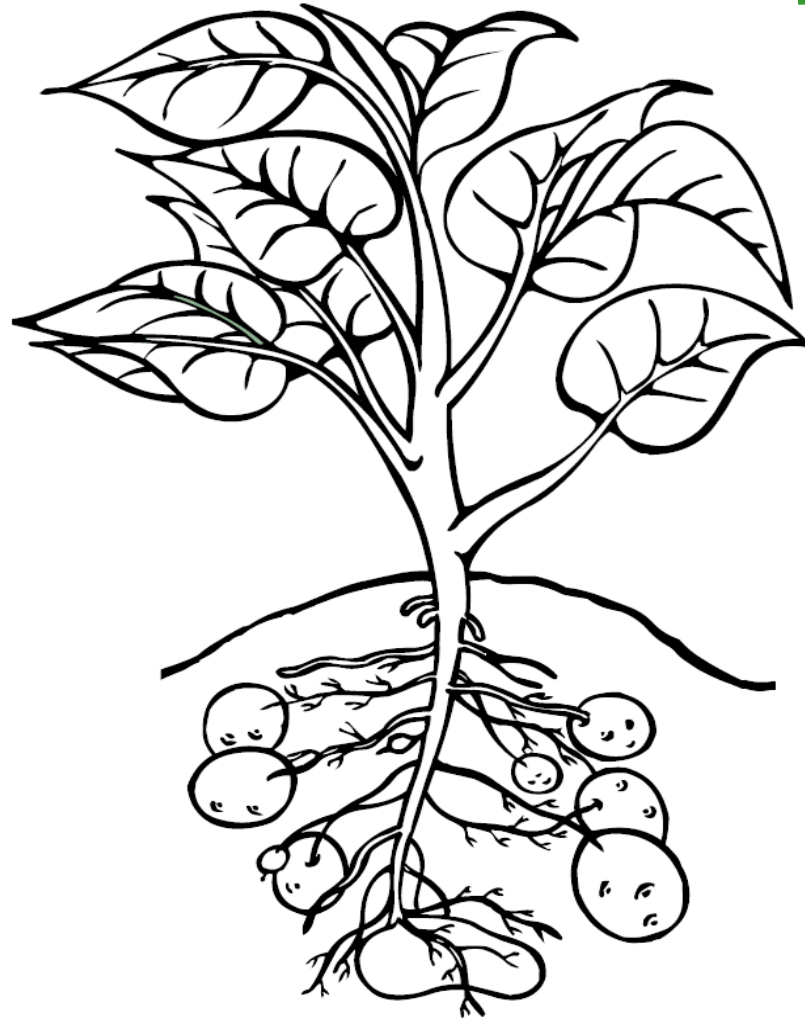


Growing Potatoes

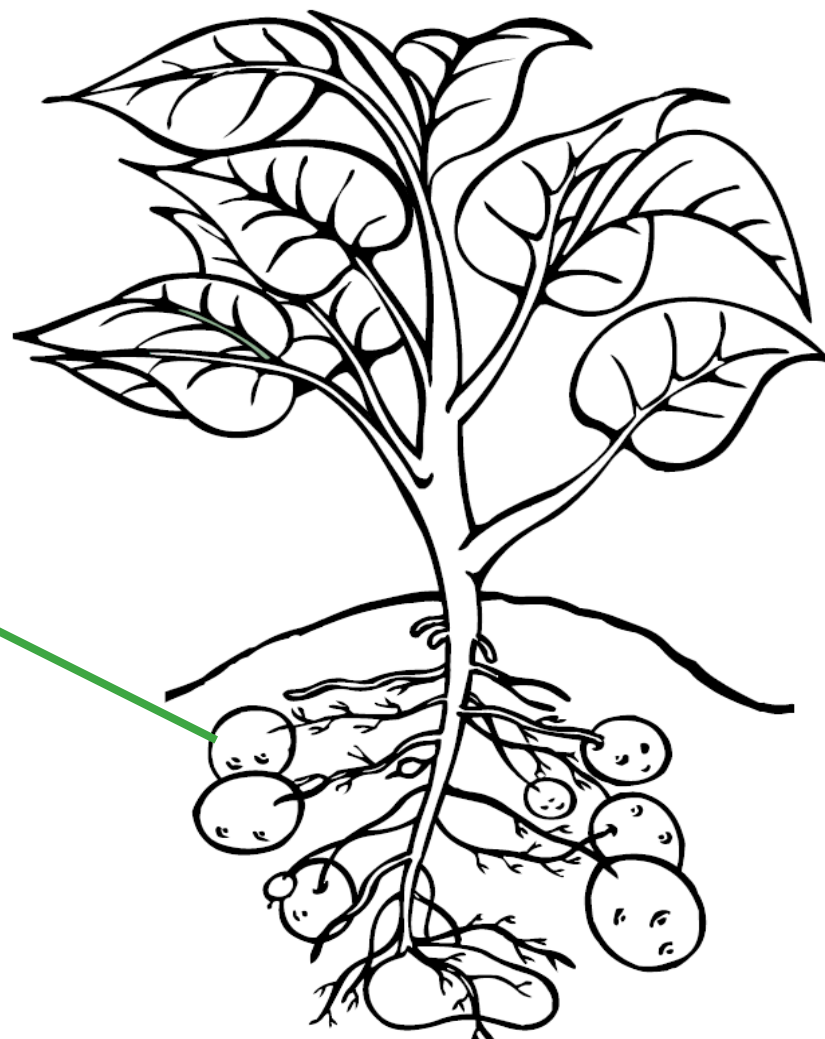


Potatoes come from a plant

Where are the potatoes?



Potatoes are tubers



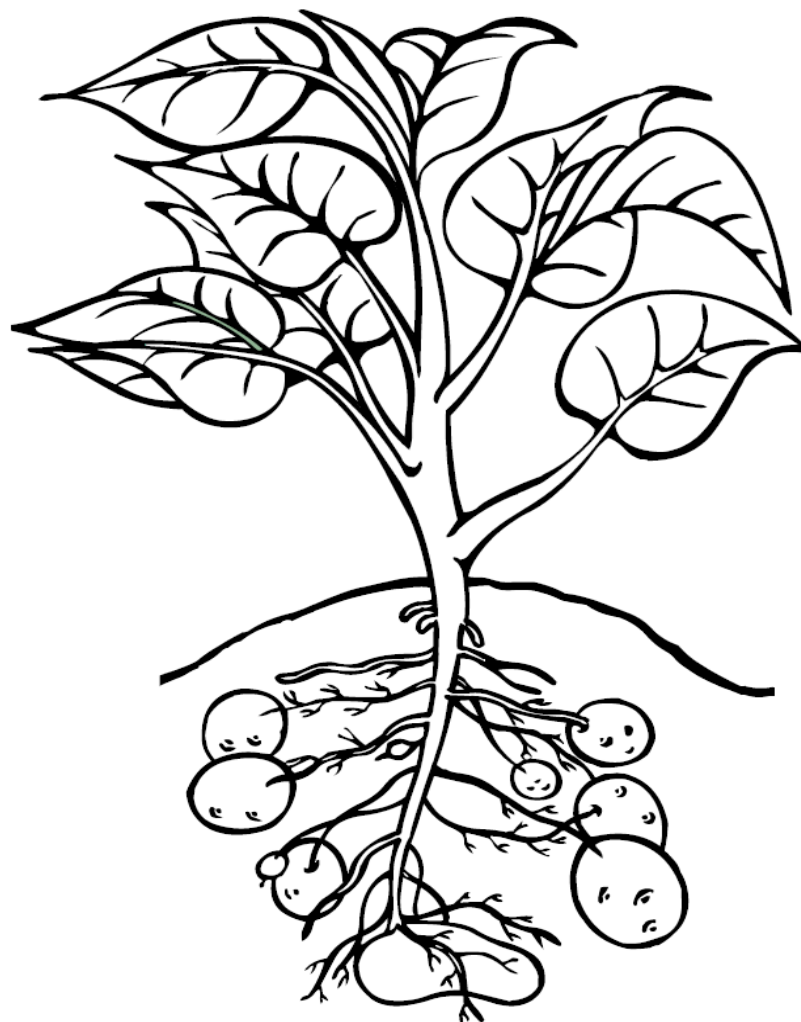
Here are the tubers.



Different parts of the potato plant



Let's learn how potatoes grow



Preparing the ground

Where is the destoner?

This is a destoner. It is removing stones from the soil so the potatoes have more room to grow. This also stops the harvester collecting stones when it collects the potatoes later on. As the destoner does its job, it makes long tunnels of soil. These are called beds.



Chitting

Can you see the sprouts?

These are potatoes (tubers). They are left to sprout before they are planted. This is called chitting, and it helps the tubers grow faster and produce a bigger crop. If they are not left to sprout they will grow slowly when they are planted.



Planting

What do the beds look like?

Potatoes are usually planted in April into warm, loose soil. The planter moves along the beds planting the potatoes in rows.



Growing

Why are the potatoes 'earthed up'?

Here are the potato plants. As they grow, the soil is 'earthed up'. This means it is pulled up around them – a bit like a blanket. This protects them against frost and weeds and stops the potatoes going green.



Flowering

What can you see here?

The potatoes plants have a small white or pink flower. They also grow a small green tomato-like fruit that is poisonous to eat.



Under the soil

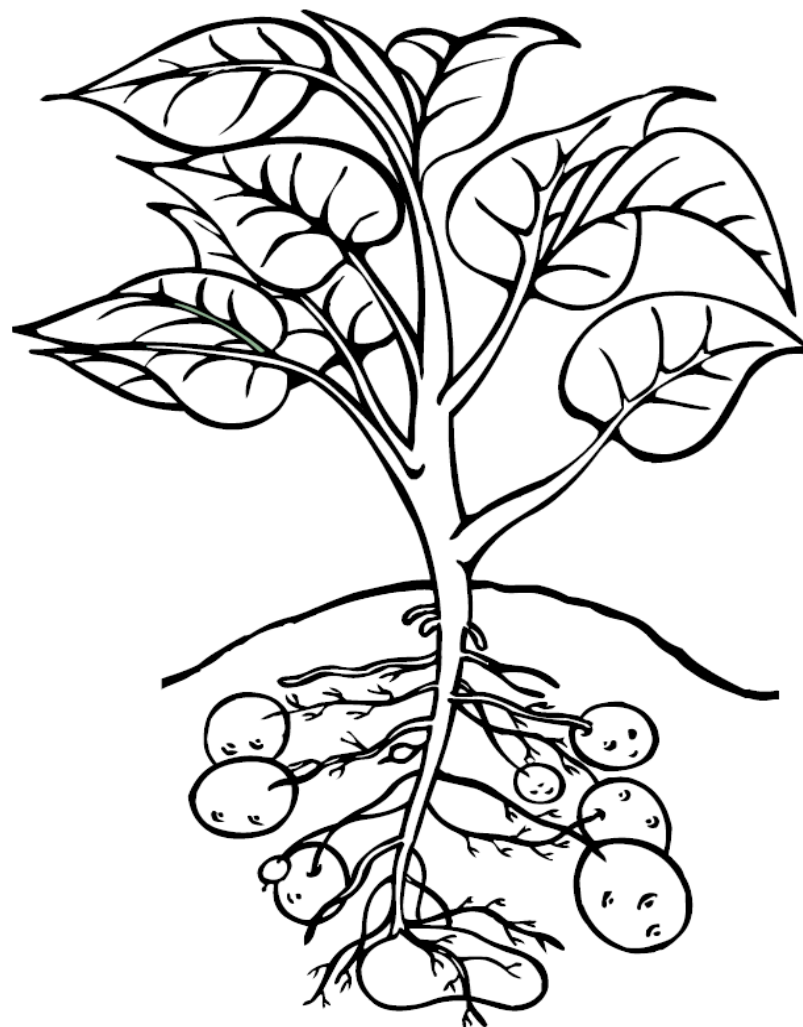
What can you see here?

By the middle of July, the first potatoes are ready to be harvested. They are called the first earlies. In August the second earlies are harvested. Earlies are small potatoes often called 'new' potatoes. The main crop are ready in September.



Under the soil

Can you remember what all the parts of the potato plant are called?



Harvesting



Here is the a harvesting machine. It lifts and separates the potatoes from the soil.

Some of the harvested potatoes will be eaten straight away but some will be stored and eaten later in the year.



Crop rotation



When potatoes have been harvested, they can not be grown in the same field again for 5 years. This is because damaging pests might build up in the soil and destroy a crop. Moving crops around different fields is called crop rotation.



You can grow your own potatoes!

Learn how to grow your own potatoes by watching the **Grow it videos**.



Did you know that it is easy and fun to grow your own potatoes?

Follow the instructions on the **Planting my potato** and **Growing my potato** factsheets.

Why not enter the **Grow Your Own Potatoes** competition? Go to:

www.gyop.potato.org.uk

