

A BUCKET OF SPUDS

Step 1

Get your hands on some potatoes with eyes or sprouts.

Step 2

Next you will need some straw, hay, wood chips, or dried grass clippings to plant your potatoes in and let them take root. Soil or compost will work, too. Just make sure that whatever you plant them in won't be sprouting itself and, thus, competing with the potatoes. If this becomes a problem putting a few sheets of wet newspapers on top might help, but make sure the potato plant pokes through.

Step 3

Get a bucket and poke or drill some holes in the bottom. Then fill the bucket about a third of the way with straw (we'll just say it's straw though it could be any of the others). It doesn't need to be packed in tightly, but it shouldn't be too loose. Pat it down and put three or four potatoes on top, sprout up, covering them over with straw until the bucket is about half full.

A BUCKET OF SPUDS cont...

Step 4

Water the potatoes like any other potted plant. Soon green sprouts will emerge. When they are six or seven inches high, carefully add more straw to the bucket, filling in around the plants until only the upper tip is visible. The plant will root again, producing more potatoes. Repeat this process all the way up to the top of the bucket.

Throughout the process, keep the straw watered enough to stay damp. When there is no more space to climb, let the plant grow and cycle through its life. The plant turns yellow and starts to die to signal that the potatoes are fully grown and perfect for the kitchen. Dig them up, give them a rinse and be sure to save some of the spuds for your next crop.

