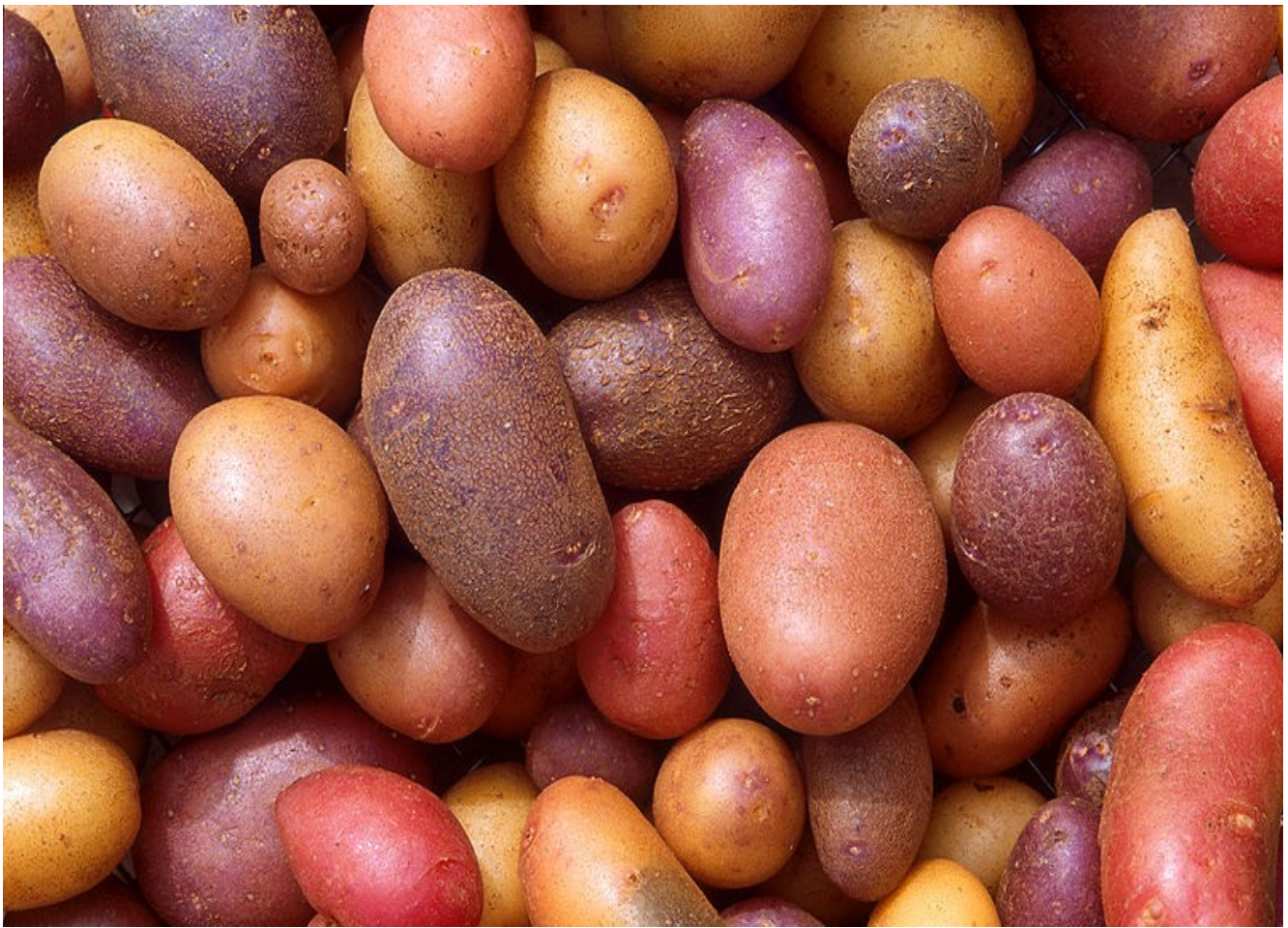


Growing Potatoes Is Easier Than You Think

The Simple Guide to Building a Potato Bin



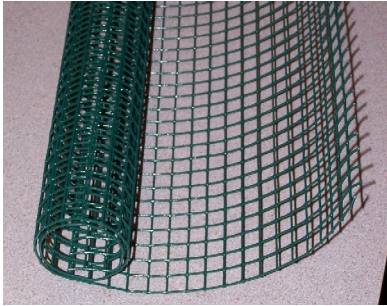
Cassandra Truax
My 20 Minute Garden
gardencoach@organic-raised-bed-gardening.com

Materials

A potato bin can be made out of just about any material, so check around your yard and shed and see what you have laying around.

Some possible materials include:

- **fencing** - I prefer a sturdier fencing as opposed to chicken wire. Just be sure to have the height low enough so you can easily bend over and reach into the bin.
- **Metal lath or hardware cloth**



- **pallets**
- **5, 7, 10, 15 gallon container or whiskey barrel**



Build the Bin

If you're using fencing or similar material:

- loop the material around to make a circle
- fasten together with wire

If you're using pallets or other inflexible material:

- create a box without a top or bottom
- fasten together with twine, wire, or whatever is appropriate
- if you're using a pot, whiskey barrel or can, no preparation is needed

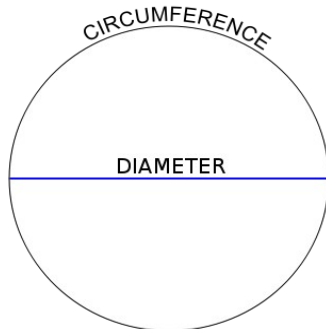
Useful Formulas

For Circles:

Circumference of a circle (distance all the way around the edge)

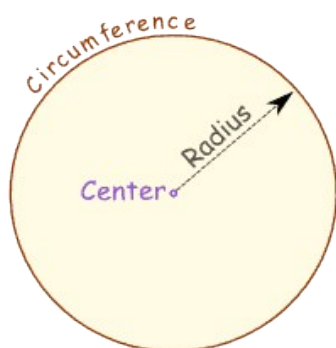
Use this to figure how much fencing you will need.

$$C = 3.14 \times \text{diameter}$$



Area of a circle (how big is the footprint?)

$$A = 3.14 \times \text{radius} \times \text{radius}$$



Volume of a cylinder (how much soil will it hold?)

Use this to figure out how much soil you will need to fill the bin.

$$V = 3.14 \times \text{radius} \times \text{radius} \times \text{height}$$

In other words, the area of the circle times the height of the bin.

Plant Potatoes

It's easy from here.

- place a couple of inches of soil or straw on the bottom of the bin
- plant a layer of seed potatoes about 6" apart
- cover with 3"-5" of soil
- water well
- fertilize every 2-3 weeks with all [natural fertilizer](#)

As the potato plants grow up, add more soil. The plant will grow more potatoes as its stem becomes covered with soil.

Harvest potatoes after the plants turn yellow and die back.