



Potato Growers Association
of Western Australia Inc

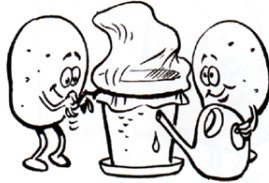


Name

Growing experiment

How do your potatoes grow under varying conditions?

Try this scientific experiment with your potato seeds! Before you start, read through the instructions carefully and write down your predictions for what you think will happen to the potato seeds in each pot. At the end of the experiment you can see if you guessed right!



You will need:

- Four large pots
- Four saucers
- Bits of broken plant pots
- Soil and compost
- Seed potatoes
- Plastic bag
- Wire twists or elastic bands
- Cardboard box

What to do:

1. Leave your seed potatoes in a warm, dry, light place to **sprout**.
2. Prepare your pots for planting by placing the broken pot pieces in the bottom of your pot and then **half fill** with soil and compost. Place half-filled pots on saucers.
3. Place two seed potatoes in the pot so that most of their shoots are **pointing upwards**.
4. Cover your seed potatoes with more soil.
5. Label your pots with your group name and number them **1, 2, 3 and 4**.
6. Water **Pot 1** and leave it on the classroom windowsill as the control pot. This pot has everything it needs, including sunlight, oxygen (in the air), water and food (compost).
7. Water **Pot 2** and place the plastic bag over the top of it and secure with a wire tie or elastic band to keep air out.
8. Water **Pot 3**, put it in a cardboard box and keep it in a dark cupboard.
9. Leave **Pot 4** on the windowsill but don't water it.
10. Observe your potato plants for eight weeks, making sure you water each one of them regularly **except Pot 4**.
11. Record your observations each week. You may also like to include illustrations and photos.

Growing experiment: page 1 of 2

Plant



Grow



Cook





Potato Growers Association
of Western Australia Inc



Observation sheet

Use this chart to record your observations each week. Describe how your plants look as they grow, and include drawings or photographs if you like.

	Pot 1	Pot 2	Pot 3	Pot 4
Week 1				
Week 2				
Week 3				
Week 4				
Week 5				
Week 6				
Week 7				
Week 8				

So, what did you find out?

Which potato plant grew best?

What conclusions can you make about the things potato plants need to grow?

