



HOW TO BUILD A POTATO TOWER

Gather your supplies

Tools– hammer, shovel

4 wooden stakes

Mesh or chicken wire (about 1m high)

Shade cloth

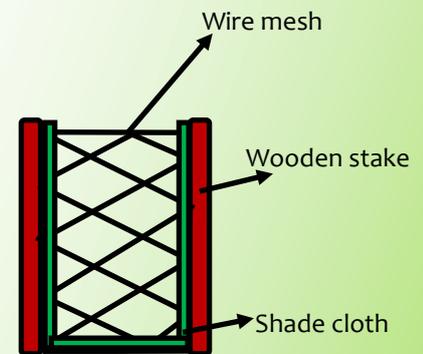
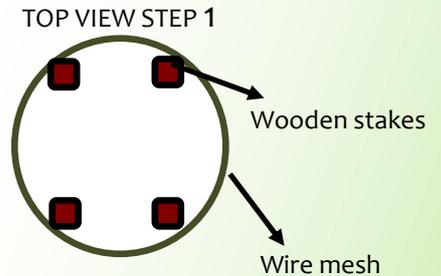
Wire ties or string

Compost

old straw, composted mulch or similar

Instructions

1. Hammer your stakes in a square shape, about 60cm apart
2. Your mesh will go around your 4 wooden stakes to create a circle. Use string or tie wire to attach your circle shut, then attach to the stakes for stability.
3. Line the inside of your “tower ” with shade cloth. This is fiddly! The shade cloth must go down the side, across the bottom, and up the other side. It should be as smooth as you can, try not to have any gaps. You may need to overlap areas a little bit. (this will hold our soil and potatoes in place.)
4. Use wire ties to attach the shade cloth to the wire mesh, to hold it taugt to the mesh/wire. (so it can be undone from the outside)
5. Now add some compost into the tower to a depth 15cm. (this is the base for our potatoes to grow) Place the seed potatoes onto the compost in your tower, about 15cm apart. The “eyes” will grow the roots and stems of the potatoes, so don’t break them off or damage them.
6. Cover seed potatoes with compost until completely covered (15cm) then mulch with the “old” garden straw. Water well and wait till they grow for step7
7. When the green shoots are about 20cm, repeat step 6 as the potatoes grow, until your potatoes flower or start to die back.
8. Wait about 2 weeks to rest the potatoes. Harvest by undoing the tower and search the soil for your harvest. The soil should be contained within the shade cloth, making finding the crop easy.
Re use the soil provide its not used for growing solanum family (potatoes, tomatoes, chilli/capsicum, egg plants gooseberries etc)



CROSS SECTION SIDE VIEW
STEP 4

