

Growing Potatoes in a Garbage Can



By Lora Keddle

The spring of 2008, was the year of my Potato Adventure. I moved from a very large garden, into the home that had the total gardening space of two of my former raised beds. My husband, Reg reminds me constantly that I need to make choices, that I can't grow it all. I don't like it when he's right, so I continually attempt to push the small space boundaries. Growing potatoes just about had me eating some serious pride.

They are extremely easy to grow. They grow all by themselves in the dark corners of my pantry when I've forgotten a couple of them in the bottom of a bag. Unfortunately, I had never seen them reach maturity, and had no idea how big and bushy the plant gets above ground. I planted a few potatoes that turned out to be one of the biggest space hogs my garden had ever seen. I have to say I had a fantastic yield, but it was such an unattractive mess.

After seeing a knowing smile on Reg's face, I was determined not to give up. I had heard you could grow potatoes in a garbage can, so I went online to learn more. Sure enough, I found a half dozen sites and examples of such success. I was so excited I talked our neighbors into bring their kids over for dinner and a Potato Planting Party.