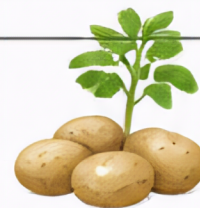


Growing Potatoes

Using Different Watering Schedules



QUESTION: How does the amount of water potatoes receive affect plant growth and potato yield?

HYPOTHESIS:

If potatoes are watered more often,

then _____

because _____

MATERIALS:

- 12–15 seed potatoes (with eyes)
- 3 large containers or grow bags (at least 5 gallons each)
- Potting soil
- Watering can or measuring cup
- Ruler
- Labels or masking tape and marker
- Trowel or small shovel (for harvest)
- Notebook or data sheet (this page)

EXPERIMENT SETUP:

1. Fill all 3 containers with potting soil, leaving 4–6 inches from the top.
2. Plant 4–5 seed potatoes in each container, about 4 inches deep and 12 inches apart.
3. Label the containers with the watering schedule:



SCHEDULE A DAILY

Water a small amount every day.



SCHEDULE B EVERY 3 DAYS

Water a larger amount every 3 days.



SCHEDULE C WEEKLY

Water a larger amount once a week.

4. Place all containers in the same location with similar sunlight.
5. Water each container according to its schedule.
6. Keep all other conditions the same (soil type, container size, sunlight).

WHAT TO OBSERVE:

- Plant height
- Number of leaves
- Leaf color and health
- Any signs of wilting
- Number and size of potatoes at harvest

EXPERIMENT LENGTH:

8–12 weeks

(or until plants yellow and die back)

DATA TABLE:

WEEK	PLANT HEIGHT (inches)			NUMBER OF LEAVES			NOTES / OBSERVATIONS		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8+ (Harvest)									

RESULTS: (At Harvest)

Number of potatoes harvested

Schedule A (Daily): _____

Schedule B (Every 3 Days): _____

Schedule C (Weekly): _____

Which schedule produced the most potatoes? _____

Which schedule produced the healthiest plants? _____

CONCLUSION:

My results showed that _____

I think this happened because _____

If I did this experiment again, I might _____
