

POTATO TOWER

Supplies:

- (2) (2 x 2) 8 ft. wood posts
- (6) (1 x 6) 8 ft. pine boards
- (1 box of 100) 1½" flat-head wood screws (PPS)
- Drill, 1/8" drill bit and driver bit

Directions:

1. Cut each of the (2 x 2) posts in half, making four 4 ft. corner pieces.
2. Cut the 8 ft. board into (2) 21" sections and (2) 24" sections (you will have about 6 inches of left-over wood that you can discard or use for another project).
3. Line up both ends of a 21" section of board so their edges are square with the bottom corners of the posts.
4. Use a drill with bit to predrill 2 evenly-spaced holes through each broadside end of the board, then use the drill with the driver bit to secure the ends of the board to the posts through the predrilled holes. Repeat the steps 3 and 4 with the other 21" section and 2 corner posts.
5. Lean the 2 frames against something, or have someone hold them up so they mirror each other and then use the two 24" sections as the bottom sides of the row for the tower, predrilling as in step 4 and attaching them to the corner posts with wood screws. You should now have the tower's full frame: four corner posts sticking straight up and plank of 6" boards that run all the way around as the bottom row.
6. Add another row of planks on top of the bottom row by repeating steps 2 and 4. You now have a box 1 ft. deep: fill the first 6" with a good prepared soil, plant 6 to 9 seed potatoes that have plenty of eyes, and fill in the remainder of the box with soil. Water well.
7. When the potato vines sprout and are about 12" above the soil, add another row of planks by again repeating steps 2 and 4, and fill in most of the new layer with more prepared soil, being careful not to cover more than about 1/3 of the plant.
8. Repeat these steps as the potato plant grows throughout the season, adding new layers and more soil until the box is complete, or until you have reached a desired height for the tower.
9. To harvest potatoes, remove the screws from the bottom row of boards and reach in for the spuds carefully. Replace soil and boards, and when you want more, remove the next row up and "rob" spuds from that level.



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