Upon Arrival
Inspect your seed. Discard any rotted tubers.

If you are not going to plant within a few days, store tubers in a dark, fairly humid and cool (around 40°F) place. A refrigerator or root cellar works well.

Be careful not to damage the sprouts growing on the tubers. These sprouts will become your potato vines.

Soil Preparation
Potatoes grow in any well-drained fertile soil. Work in compost or aged manure. Do not use fresh manure, lime or wood ash the year of planting—this increases the incidence of scab.

Rotate potatoes and other potato family members (tomatoes, peppers and eggplants) with vegetables of other plant families in a 3- or 4-year rotation, if possible.

Cutting Seed
Small tubers may be planted whole (see drawing). These uncut tubers are less likely to suffer from rot compared to pieces that are cut.

Cut large tubers into pieces of two ounces or more (about the size of a small egg). Make sure each piece has at least two eyes.

Eyes are often clustered at the ends of the tubers. Cut large tubers so the eyes are evenly distributed among all pieces.

Cut seed pieces one day before planting to allow cut surfaces to dry. Drying allows the pieces to form a layer of callus that protects the piece from diseases.

Larger seed pieces will emerge faster than smaller ones.

Planting
Plant seed pieces cut side down, approximately 12 inches apart and about 3-5 inches deep, in rows 30-40 inches apart.

Space pieces closer than 12 inches apart to produce many smaller tubers, or space pieces farther apart for fewer but larger tubers.

**Sources:**
