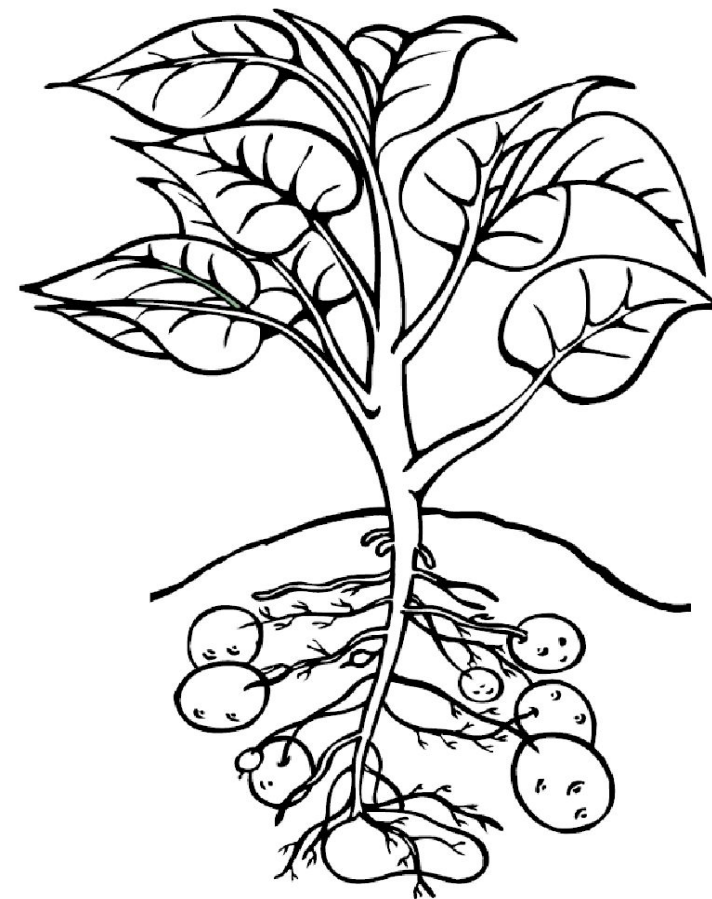




# Growing potatoes

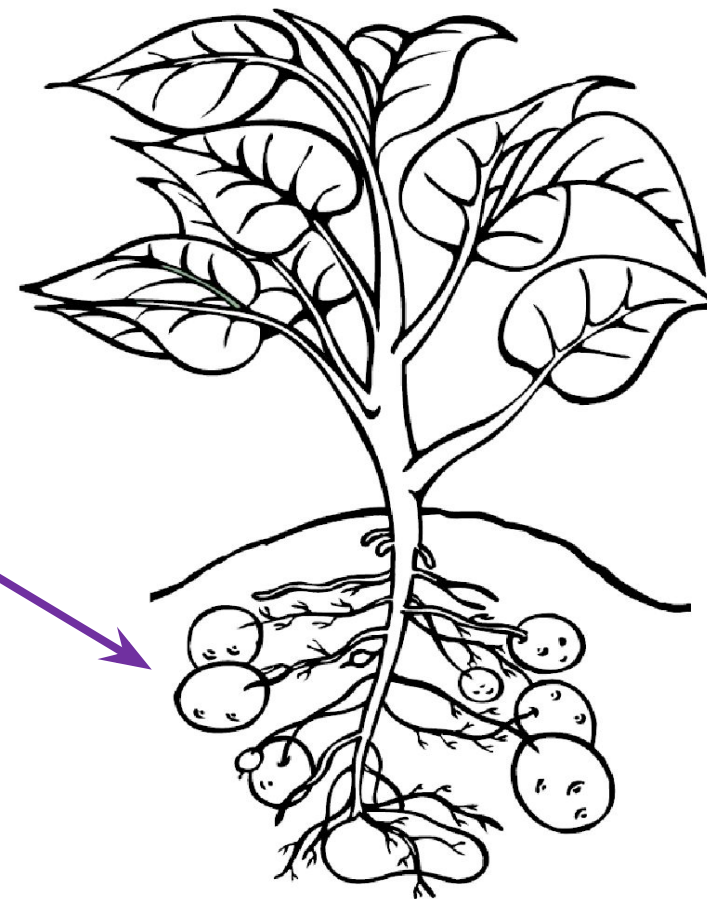
# Potatoes come from a plant

Where are the potatoes?



# Potatoes are tubers

Here are the tubers.



# Different parts of a potato plant



# Let's find out how potatoes grow!





## Preparing the ground

This is a destoner. It is removing stones from the soil so the potatoes have more room to grow.

This also stops the harvester collecting stones when it collects the potatoes later on.

As the destoner does its job, it makes long tunnels of soil. These are called beds.



## Chitting

These are potatoes (tubers).  
They are left to sprout before they are planted.

This is called chitting, and it helps  
the tubers grow faster and produce  
a bigger crop.

If they are not left to sprout they  
will grow slowly when they are  
planted.



## Planting

Potatoes are usually planted in April into warm, loose soil.

The planter moves along the beds planting the potatoes in rows.





## Growing

Here are the potato plants.

As they grow, the soil is 'earthed up'. This means it is pulled up around them – a bit like a blanket.

This protects them against frost and weeds and stops the potatoes going green.



## Flowering

The potatoes plants have a small white or pink flower.

They also grow a small green tomato-like fruit that is poisonous to eat.



## Under the soil

By the middle of July, the first potatoes are ready to be harvested.

They are called the first earlies. In August the second earlies are harvested.

Earlies are small potatoes often called 'new' potatoes.

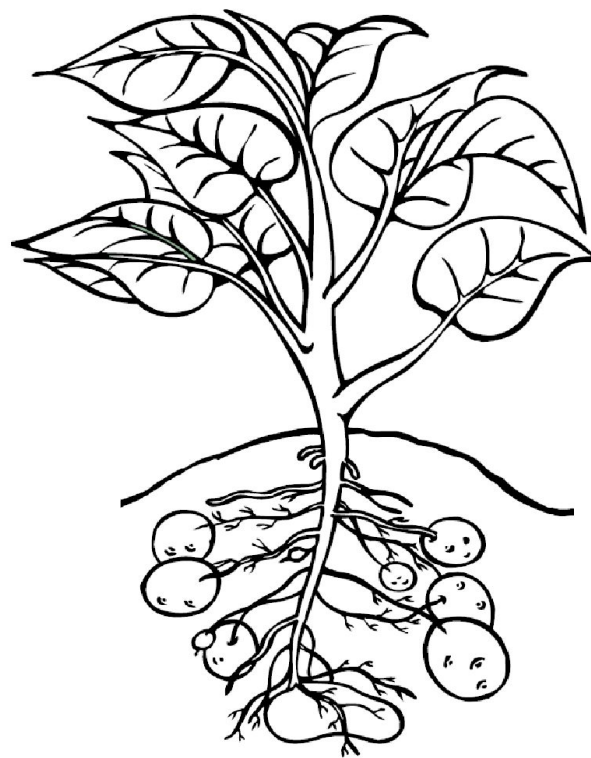
The main crop are ready in September.





# Potato plant

Can you remember what all the parts of the potato plant are called?





## Harvesting

Here is the a harvesting machine.  
It lifts and separates the potatoes  
from the soil.

Some of the harvested potatoes  
will be eaten straight away but  
some will be stored and eaten later  
in the year.



# Potatoes





For further information, go to:  
[www.foodafactoflife.org.uk](http://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk)