

Potato tower made easy!

A great LAZY way to harvest potatoes—make a potato tower!

The first thing you'll need to do is to construct a "tube." I used to make these out of chicken wire, and stake them to the ground. But, they get tippy and fall over, and are messy and hard to work with and re-use.

I'm all about repurposing, and I stumbled on the perfect material for building towers: White plastic lattice!

You can buy a sheet at your big-box home improvement store for about \$25 bucks, and you can get two towers out of a sheet. **I found some at Lowe's that were half-size the long way, were about \$8 bucks. No cutting, you just loop around and zip tie!**



The Image on the left is a stack of lattice sheets. I had a couple from an old project. I cut one in half lengthwise, they cut easily with a sabre or circular saw if you can't find the half-sized ones. I think I even used a hand-bowsaw at the time. Then you simply bring the ends together and zip-tie. Voila!

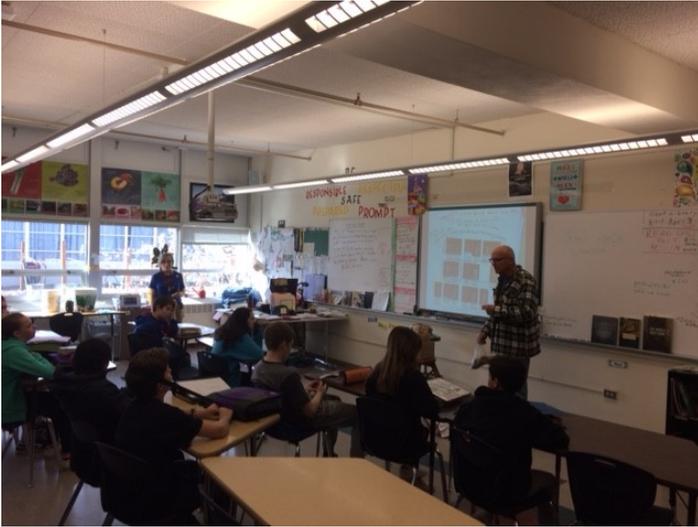
The image on the right shows one in action. You can see the plants growing out the top and sides!

Here are the steps for planting:

1. Plant in spring, like end of March or April. Place your tower where you want it
2. Alternate layers of straw, potting soil or compost, and potato seed.
3. I put a drip line on top of mine and forgot about it for the summer!
4. Harvest in the fall. Simply kick the tower over, and pick up the spuds! No digging!

This method is great for places without a lot of room. You can even put one on blacktop or whatever! Experiment with different types of spuds! Some years I have huge, bumper crops, and other years I don't. I suppose that's like planting anything!

Memorial Middle School in Albany, OR Planting Makah's, spring 2018



First we did a history lesson on where they came from



Use what you have! They didn't have straw, but had lots of leaves. It worked!



They did two towers. One for the makah's and one for another variety

Harvest time



The plants start dying, you can harvest



Knocked the tower over, emptied contents, dig through to find spuds.





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