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Greensprouting, also known as “chitting” or “presprouting,” breaks the dormancy of seed potatoes prior to planting. The process of greensprouting does create extra work prior to planting, but it also leads to a number of benefits:

- Earlier plant emergence, reducing the risk that seed pieces will rot in the ground.
- Advance the potato harvest by as much as 2 weeks.
- In short-season areas, the use of varieties that normally wouldn't have enough time to mature.
- Staggered harvest when only a portion of each variety is greensprouted.

As the name suggests, greensprouting forces the seed potatoes begin to develop small sprouts from the eyes.

1. Put whole seed potatoes in ventilated boxes or plastic crates, no more than two layers deep. The crates or boxes can be stacked, as long as air can move between them.
2. Bring the crates or boxes into a warm (65–70°F/18–21°C) room with normal ambient light and high humidity. Greenhouses are an ideal location as long as it doesn't get too hot, but almost any warm spot in your house should work.
3. Keep the potatoes dry to prevent them from rotting. If they start to shrivel, humidify the air in the room with a regular home air humidifier.
4. Let the potatoes sit in the warm environment for a week or two, until the eyes start to sprout. Rotate the potatoes during this initial phase to encourage uniform sprouting. When the sprouts are about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, move the potatoes back into a cool area (50°F/10°C) with normal ambient light. The sprouts will start to green up and should grow to about $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.
5. Keep the tubers at 50°F/10°C until you are ready to plant. Cut and plant the seed as you normally would, being careful not to break off the sprouts.

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