



Newsletter-December 2011

Multi-layered Cultivation of Potatoes



From the Editor

The Horticulture Section under the Crops Division has put on trial a multi-layered mode of cultivating crops in a controlled-environment greenhouse, aiming to look into the cost effectiveness of alternative production modes. Apart from ensuring cleanliness and hygiene, multi-layered cultivation can achieve space economy, higher yield and easier management. This issue will feature the cultivation of potatoes with multi-layered plantation facilities.



Growing Potatoes

The growing process may start in November locally and take approximately 105 to 110 days.



Sowing Seeds

Sow potato seeds purchased or retained the year before and allow for germination. When the buds come to about 1 cm long, cut the potatoes according to the distribution of buds and an average of two buds should sit in each cutting. Transplant the potato cuttings in one to two days. Bury the cuttings about 2.5 – 5 cm deep down the soil and cover the surface with soil again. Start watering in one to two days.



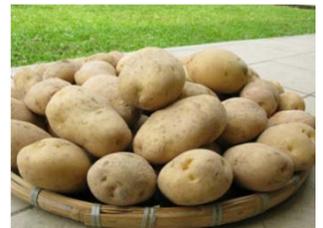
Growth

The buds grow rapidly after emerging from the soil. To keep one strong stem for each cutting. Unnecessary lateral stems should be plucked. It takes about one month to bloom after transplantation. During the growing process, earth up suitably to keep the main stems from falling over.



Harvesting

Potato leaves will turn yellow in about two months after transplantation. Cease watering then until the main stems wither. Pluck the emerged stems one month after the cessation of watering. Potatoes are ready for harvesting in a couple of days when the soil dries up.



Advantages of Multi-layered Cultivation

The use of multi-layered plantation facilities for growing potatoes in a controlled-environment greenhouse can considerably reduce the influence of underground pests and diseases while enhancing the yield and quality of potatoes.