

Have questions? Reply to this email and we'll respond as soon as possible.



## From Buds to Spuds...

For delicious summer salads and fall time spuds, now is the time to start your seed potato, sweet potato slips, and onion sets!

If you've never planted these (or are wondering- "what the heck is a set or a slip?"), we've got an easy how-to guide to set you up for success!



### Onions

*What is an Onion Set?* Onion sets are small onion bulbs that were grown from seed in the previous season, which are much easier to grow from than seeds!

*How To:* In a sunny spot with well-draining soil (high in organic matter), press your onion sets into the soil so that the point of the onion remains above the soil. Plant them about 4" apart in a row with about 12" between every row. In a couple of months, once you see withering leaves just above the neck of the onion, it's ripe and time to pull them for a summertime harvest!

### Potatoes:

*How To:* Cut your seed potatoes into 1.5"-2" chunks that contain at least 1 or 2 eyes- these will be your "seeds". Allow these to callous over their cuts for about a day, then place them in a full sun location that's at least 60-70° for 1-2 weeks until sprouted.

Once soil is over 50°, dig a trench about 12" deep and add compost. Add a small amount of soil, and place sprouted seeds about 18" apart with sprouted eyes pointing upwards. Cover with 3-4" of soil (but do not completely fill trench) and water thoroughly. Within about 2 weeks, stems will emerge- at this point, cover with more soil. As the potato grows, continue to add more soil on top to ensure the new spud is not exposed to sunlight (as it will turn green and become inedible.) They are



ready to harvest in the fall once the vine has died back.



### **Sweet Potatoes:**

*What are Slips?* Sweet Potato slips are cuttings from sprouted sweet potatoes for transplanting. Each potato can produce up to 20 slips!

*How To:* Cut sweet potato in half and place cut sides down into a glass of water with half above the water line, and half below. Place in a warm sunny spot, and in a few weeks, it will be covered in leafy sprouts! Once slips are about 6" long, gently twist off of the potato, and place them in 3-4" of water for a few days until new roots form. When roots are over an inch long, plant in loose soil in holes about 4" deep and 3" wide with roots side down. Cover with soil, then water thoroughly. Water daily for the first week, then every other day the second week. Harvest in the fall, before the first frost hits.

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## **Featured Houseplant:**



This week's featured houseplant is the **Rattlesnake Plant!** This striking plant is native to the rainforests of Brazil, and is known for its beautiful foliage pattern that resembles the pattern on a Rattlesnake. They are a type of Calathea, which means they thrive in medium to bright indirect light, and prefer to be about halfway dry between watering. They prefer higher humidity, so regular misting is a plus, and need filtered or distilled water to thrive long-term (as the minerals found in tap water can cause its leaves to wither and brown!)

## **This Week's To-Do List!**

Welcome to our new weekly segment where we give you the top, timeliest priorities for your garden!

- Now is the time to **prune and fertilize your rose bushes!** We recommend a long-lasting granular formula, like this [Fertilome Rose Food with Systemic Insecticide](#).
- It's also time to **prune back your Panicle Hydrangea** bushes! Not sure what kind of Hydrangea you have? Send us a [message](#) and we'd be happy to help you identify them!
- It's time to **start your Onion Sets, Seed Potatoes, and Sweet Potato Slips** (see article above for complete instructions.)

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### **Upcoming Classes:**

- March 23rd, 1pm: Fairy Garden Making
- April 6th, 1pm: DIY Pottery Painting
- April 13th, 1pm: Make Your Own Moss Pole
- April 20th, 1pm: Plant Repotting Class

To purchase tickets to any of these events, head to our [Eventbrite Page](#), visit the store, or call us at (317) 291-1441 to reserve your spot today!

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