

POTATO TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

CONTAINERCROP.COM

Problem	Looks Like	Likely Cause	Fix
Yellow leaves (early in season)	Lower leaves go pale or yellow	Nitrogen deficiency or uneven watering	Give a liquid feed with balanced fertilizer; keep soil evenly moist
Yellow leaves (late in season)	Whole plant yellows, stems flop	Natural die-back, crop maturing	Stop watering and prep to harvest
Purple leaves	Leaves take on a purplish tint	Phosphorus deficiency, often from cold soil	Warm the container (move to sunnier spot, mulch), feed with high-phosphorus
Lots of leaves, few potatoes	Tall, bushy plants but tiny tubers	Too much nitrogen or not enough potassium	Switch to a fertilizer for tomatoes or potatoes (higher K, lower N)
Small tubers	Harvest yields marble-sized spuds	Container too small, shallow soil, or plant too crowded	Use larger pots, fewer seed potatoes per pot, deeper soil layers
Green potatoes	Tubers turn green, bitter taste	Sunlight reached the tubers	Hill up soil/mulch to cover tubers fully
Rotting potatoes	Mushy, foul-smelling tubers	Overwatering, poor drainage, waterlogged soil	Improve drainage, water less often but more deeply
Wilting in hot weather	Plants collapse midday, recover at night	Container overheating, water stress	Shade pots in afternoon, mulch thickly, water in morning
Blight (brown patches, fuzzy mold)	Leaves with black/brown spots, stems rot	Fungal disease in warm, wet conditions	Remove affected leaves, improve airflow, avoid wetting leaves, rotate crops
Potato tuber moth damage	Tunnels in tubers, frass inside	Moths lay eggs in soil/near stems	Keep tubers covered with soil, harvest promptly, destroy damaged spuds

