

Kitchen Garbage: Starting Sweet Potato Vines

Measure and **cut** off the top 1/3 of a milk carton. You will **use** only the bottom of the carton. Next, **make** a few small holes in the bottom to let any extra water drain out during the project. Keep the carton on a dish, a pan, or other "catcher" to **collect** any water that drains out of it so the water does not spill onto furniture. Then, **measure** 2 inches up from the bottom of the container, and **mark** it with a line. **Place** vermiculite or seed-starting mix in your container until it reaches up to your mark.

Choose a sweet potato that is sprouting, if possible. Most sweet potatoes in grocery stores are treated with a chemical making them very slow to sprout. If you use treated sweet potatoes they should work -- it just might take longer.



Lay the sweet potato on its side in the container. **Measure** 3 inches up from the top of the vermiculite or mix already in the container, and **mark** the container side with a line. **Add** more vermiculite or mix until it reaches this line.

How many total inches of vermiculite or mix have you placed in the container? _____

Water your sweet potato so that it will grow. You want to keep the soil moist but not too wet or the sweet potato will rot. If you keep your plant for a long time, you may want to add some fertilizer. Follow the instructions on the fertilizer container.

How long did it take for your sweet potato to start growing leaves? _____