

# LEARNING WITH *Sweetpotatoes*



## Mini-Lesson

### How to Grow a Garden – Sweetpotato Ag Mag Edition

#### Pre-K – Kindergarten

##### Mini-Lesson Focus:

- Growing sweetpotatoes
- Spring-themed units

##### Materials:

- Soil
- Sweetpotato (preferably an uncured sweetpotato)
- Nursery pot/bucket
- Small watering can
- Small spade
- A piece of black plastic (a trash bag will work)

##### Procedure:

1. Prior to the mini-lesson, gather the materials.
2. Say to students, “Have you ever grown a garden? I bet you have.” Ask, “What are some things you have grown in your garden?” Allow students time to share things they have grown. They might say typical family garden vegetables and fruits such as sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, peas, watermelon, etc. Then ask, “What do we use to start a garden?” Expect some students to say plants or seeds.
3. Show the class a sweetpotato. Say to students, “What if I told you this sweetpotato could be buried in the dark, cool soil to grow new sweetpotatoes? What if it didn’t need a seed?”
4. Allow students to play in the soil, then place the sweetpotato in the soil and allow students to put handfuls of soil on top of the sweetpotato. Pat it down.
5. Discuss with students about the steps it took to “bed” the sweetpotato.
  - Step 1: Dig a hole.
  - Step 2: Put the sweetpotato down into the cool soil.
  - Step 3: Throw soil on top of the sweetpotato.
  - Step 4: Pat it down flat and firm, not too hard.
  - Step 5: Water lightly with the watering can.

- Step 6: Cover with plastic, and make sure there are holes in the plastic.
  - Show students the [time lapse video of a sweetpotato growing](#).
6. After the mini-lesson, students should expand their learning to focus on core content standards aligned to curriculum.
- Use [digital media](#) offered through the sweetpotato curriculum set
  - Lesson plans from [sweetpotato curriculum](#) set
  - Use [agclassroom.org](#) for additional lesson plans

**Standard Subsets:**

**pre-Kindergarten**

Goal APL-1: Children show curiosity and express interest in the world around them.

Goal APL-2: Children actively seek to understand the world around them.

Goal CD-2: Children recall information and use it for new situations and problems.

**Kindergarten**

**English/Language Arts**

RI.K.1 With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text/multimedia.

RI.K.4 With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text/multimedia.

*Thank you*  
to our partners

