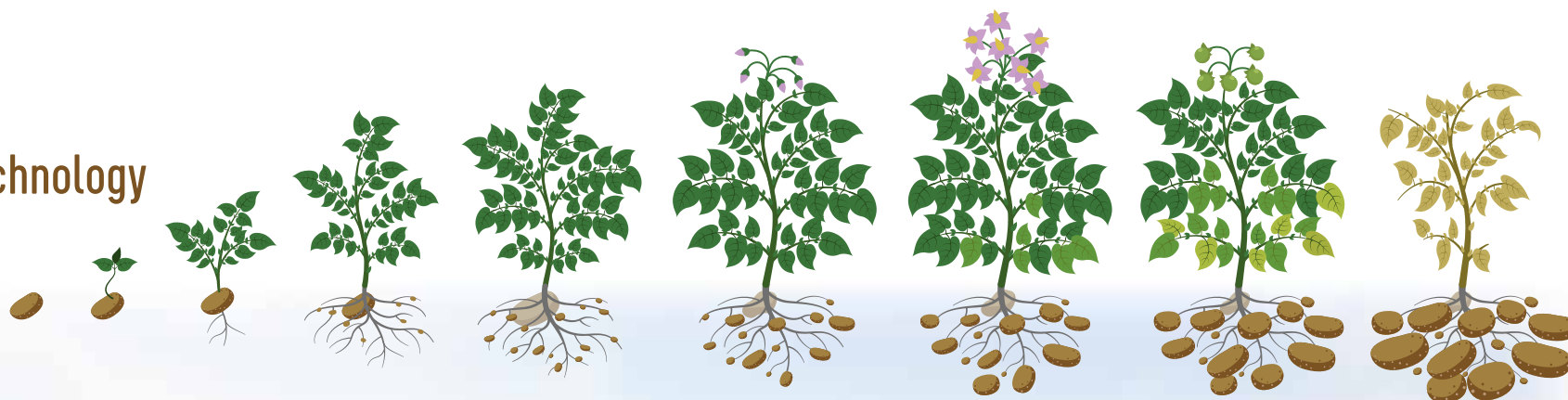




CULTIVATION
P O T A T O
CALENDAR

APPENDIX TO THE BROCHURE
ON POTATO GROWING IN
HOUSEHOLD PLOTS

OPTIMAL TERMS of MAIN ACTIVITIES in Potato Cultivation Technology within a Year Period in Chernihiv Region



JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
1. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES			1 b						1 a. ORGANIC FERTILISERS APPLYING		
2 b. WINTER SIDERATES AND THEIR PLOUGHING								2 a. SPRING SIDERATES		2 b. WINTER SIDERATES	
		3. SEED TUBERS PREPARATION									
				4. POTATO GROWING PERIOD							
				5. POTATO FERTILISATION							
				6. POTATO IRRIGATING (IF AVAILABLE)							
				7. APPLICATION OF PLANT PROTECTION SUBSTANCES							
							8. OPTIMAL TERM for POTATO HARVESTING				
							9. PREPARING SEED TUBERS AND OTHER POTATOES FOR WINTER STORAGE		10. WINTER STORAGE		

- 1** Preparatory Activities include training, planning the activities of the following season, purchasing fertilisers and the necessary tools or machinery; organic fertilisers are not applied every year and, depending on the soil composition, either in autumn (in most soils – 1a) or spring (in sands – 1b) with simultaneous ploughing and planting of potatoes
- 2** Siderates (green manure) are sown after the potato harvest, but if they are spring crops (oil radish, white mustard, phacelia, oats – 2a), they can be ploughed as green manure or with additional organic fertiliser (in this case the plot will be ready for winter) or not ploughed (then the plot will need to be prepared in spring). If winter siderates (rye, triticale, winter rapeseed – 2b) have been sown, all soil preparation work for potato growing is postponed until the end of April, when the plants have formed a sufficient mass of green fertiliser
- 3** Preparation of seed tubers (warming and germination)
- 4** Calendar period of potato cultivation in Chernihiv Region (Polissia). This period usually begins in late April or May, when the soil warms up to 8-10°C. This is the appropriate temperature for potato planting
- 5** Optimal period of potato fertilisation (the period of active plant growth when they need additional nutrition, in particular foliar nutrition, including microelements)
- 6** Optimal period for potato irrigating (if necessary and if possible, it is during the period of active growth and flowering that plants require water to form green mass and tubers)
- 7** Application of plant protection substances period (all plant protection products must be applied at the time and in the manner specified in the manufacturer's instructions)
- 8** Optimal period for potato harvesting (after the dark green colour of the tops turns to a lighter shade and the bushes "fade", which in the case of medium early potato varieties occurs in the second half of July, a week or two should still pass before the tops turn a noticeable yellow-green colour when they need to be cut. This moment is important for the quality of the crop, as most diseases cannot develop on the mown old tops, the skin of tubers is strengthened, and the larvae of the Colorado potato beetle lose their food base (as a result, they will enter the winter weakened). 10-14 days after mowing the tops, start harvesting the crop
- 9** Post-harvest work involves sorting tubers and arranging conditions for them to go through the so-called "recovery period". After the recovery period, the tubers are finally sorted and stored for the winter
- 10** Potatoes are stored in dark, ventilated rooms (or periodically with artificial ventilation). The optimum temperature for storing potatoes ranges within 2-4°C

The recommendations were developed by the Institute of Agricultural Microbiology and Agro-Industrial Production of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine on the request of the International Humanitarian Organization ZOA in cooperation with the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC). The printed materials are free of charge and are distributed among vulnerable households that grow potatoes in their private plots.

