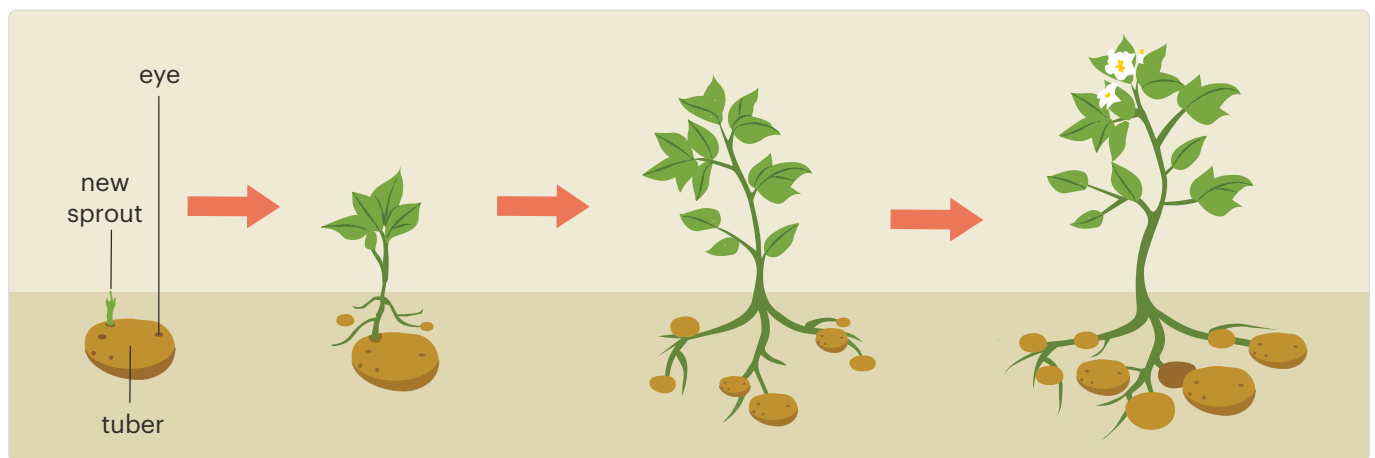


# Asexual reproduction in potatoes

When you eat a potato, you are eating the part of a potato plant known as a tuber. A tuber is a kind of underground stem. It has tiny buds on its surface known as eyes. When a potato is planted in the soil, each eye can grow into a whole new plant. By using this reproduction trick, farmers can grow many new potato plants quickly and easily.

In the wild, this method provides a great advantage to a potato plant. Bad weather and animals can damage the parts of the plant that are above ground. The tubers underground are protected from such dangers. Eyes from the tuber can then sprout to form a new plant. A plant that grows from a tuber is identical to the parent plant.



# Sexual reproduction in potatoes

Potato plants produce flowers that can be pollinated by bees or the wind. After fertilization, the flower turns into a small green fruit filled with seeds. The seeds take two weeks, on average, to germinate. Each seed contains a unique combination of genes from each parent. This means the new plants are not identical to their parents.

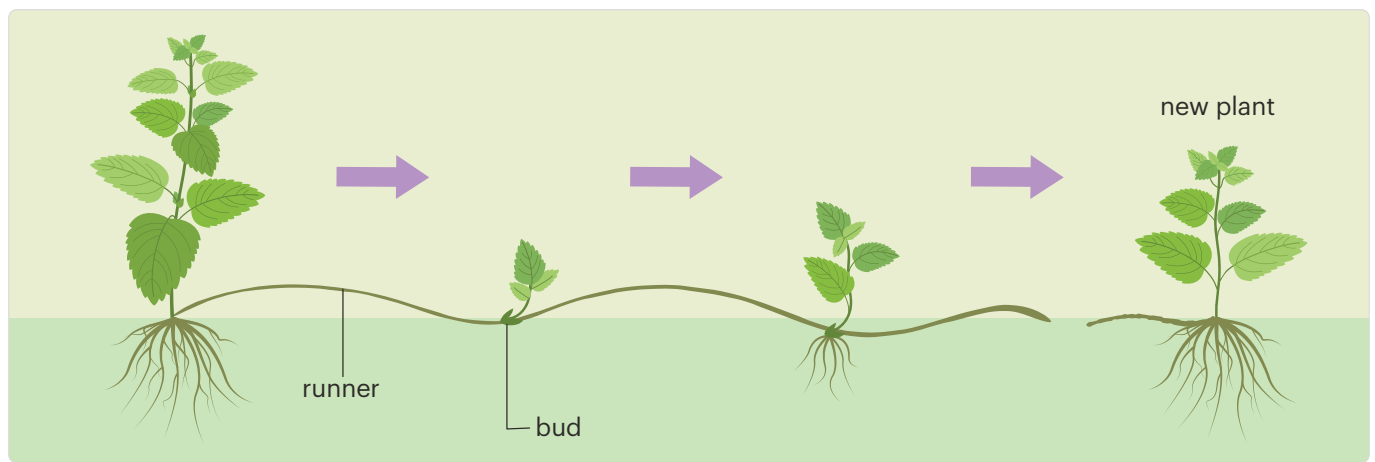
Sexual reproduction is slower, but it creates greater diversity. New plants might produce larger tubers. Others might be more resistant to certain diseases. The huge variety of potatoes we see in stores is the result of sexual reproduction.



# Asexual reproduction in mint

Mint plants are able to grow new plants without the need for seeds. Mint plants send out long stems that grow along the ground, called runners. These runners have small buds where a new plant can form. When a bud touches the soil, it starts to grow roots. This new plant, which can now grow its own stems and leaves, is identical to the parent plant. A new mint plant can form this way in just a few weeks.

This way of reproducing is very efficient because it allows mint plants to quickly cover a large area. It's one of the reasons why mint can sometimes take over gardens. Using this method, mint can reproduce even if conditions aren't suitable for producing seeds.



# Sexual reproduction in mint

Mint plants can reproduce sexually using their small, purple flowers. Bees and butterflies love to visit the flowers to collect nectar. These pollinators can then transfer the pollen from one flower to another. After pollination, the mint plant produces small fruits filled with seeds. The seeds can be spread by animals, wind, or water. Seeds spread in this way can travel long distances, allowing new plants to grow in different areas.

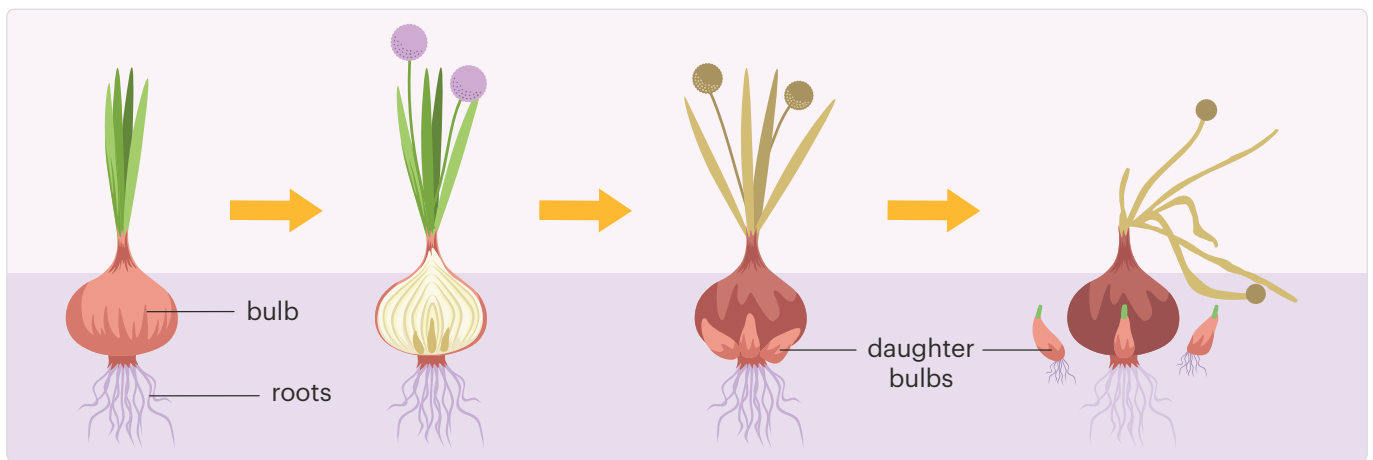
It takes around two weeks for a mint seed to germinate in the right conditions. If it is cold, the time taken to germinate can double. After germination, the seedlings will take a few weeks to grow large enough to have their own root system. These new plants are genetically different from their parents.



# Asexual reproduction in onions

Instead of using seeds, onions can produce new plants through their bulbs. The bulb is the part of the onion that grows underground. During the year, new daughter bulbs grow from the main bulb. Farmers can dig up and plant these daughter bulbs, forming new onion plants. Each of these new plants is a clone of the parent plant. Using this method, farmers can ensure their onion crop will have the same characteristics, such as size and flavor.

These daughter bulbs are also important for forming new plants in the wild. If the parent plant dies due to a lack of water, the daughter bulbs can detach and begin growing into new plants. By growing underground, they are protected from hazards such as damage from animals. The bulbs can survive underground for months and begin to grow when the conditions are right.



# Sexual reproduction in onions

Onion plants can reproduce sexually. They grow tall flower stalks with round clusters of tiny white or purple flowers at the top. Pollinators such as bees and other insects visit these flowers to collect nectar. When an onion flower is pollinated, the plant produces small, round seed pods. These seed pods eventually dry out and split open, releasing tiny black seeds.

The seeds can be spread by wind, water, or animals. They can travel long distances, allowing for plants to grow in new locations. New plants that grow from these seeds contain a unique set of genetic information. This means that the new plant might have different characteristics. This could include flavor, color, or resistance to pests found in nature.

