

## *Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

### **Plant parenthood**



From one Naked Lady bulb (*Amaryllis Belladonna*) a hillside of blooms multiplied.

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**Rooting:** Kids love rooting in water in a jar and putting the jars on a windowsill. Sweet potatoes, green onions, ginger, avocados, and lettuces can be sprouted in this manner. The ones you buy in the vegetable aisle can be used, although they may not produce as abundantly as ones from a garden center. My preferred method of growing potatoes and sweet potatoes is to cut chunks with an eye

or two, let them harden for a couple of days, then plant in a cardboard box placed in my potager with compost-rich soil. By planting them in the box, I always know where to harvest. The cardboard box decomposes adding to the mulch. Layering cardboard in your raised bed before adding the soil is also an environmentally friendly system to suffocate weeds. Ginger can be grown similarly, however, let the sliced pieces of ginger soak in water for twenty-four hours after cutting



Red potatoes were harvested.

and before planting.

Grafting, budding, and layering are other ways to propagate plants but if you want exact clones, investigate tissue culture techniques. Whatever way you decide to be a plant parent, you will be rewarded. If something doesn't work, don't worry. Failure is fertilizer. Put the mistakes on your compost pile and grow a new garden.

Happy parenting. Happy gardening. Happy growing!!



Chardonnay and Ribier grapes were started from cuttings.



Grow lettuce in a bowl of water.

Photos Cynthia Brian