

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Potentilla

Potentilla is a native shrub that is small and rounded. Unlike many other shrubs, the Potentilla shrub will bloom in colors of yellow, white, pink or oranges from the midsummer until the frost. This shrub will attract beneficial insects to the garden, and it's also deer resistant. It can reach up to 4 feet tall and will spread up to 4 feet across. The blooms are buttercup-like, and the leaves are small and finely textured which gives the shrub a delicate appearance. Plant Potentilla as a hedge or as an addition to a perennial flower border. They look great when grown under windows and they are pretty when paired with cotoneaster and dwarf spirea.



[Potentilla seed available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

### To plant:

Potentilla plants are best to plant when they are already established and not from seed. Purchase small plants and plant them in the garden and in the early fall. Prior to planting, make sure you amend the soil with compost. Space the little plants 3 to 6 feet apart and water the newly planted Potentilla thoroughly.

### To grow:

After planting, apply mulch such as wood chips or bark mulch around the base of the Potentilla shrub to retain moisture and prevent an onset of weeds. Because of its delicate leaves, Potentilla has a slow growth rate. This shrub is often considered tough, and it isn't picky when it comes to soil quality.

Since Potentilla is a perennial, it'll continue to grow year after year. However, following winter, there may be some dieback in the plant. Each spring, prune out any dead or

diseased branches. Throughout the summer, continue to prune to help shape the plant. If you feel you need to rejuvenate the shrub, Potentilla can be cut back severely and will still survive.

If you are growing Potentilla in hot conditions, spider mites may become a pest problem for the plant. If this happens, spray the shrub with an insecticidal soap to kill the mites.

### To harvest:

Since it resembles a shrub, Potentilla isn't a harvestable plant. However, gardeners can enjoy its blooms from midsummer to when the frost comes. Potentilla blooms remain for a long time, and some varieties have double petals.

### What Potentilla craves:

Potentilla doesn't require much care in the form of fertilizing, but there are methods you can take to continue its growth. Fertilize the Potentilla in the spring with a layer of



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compost and an organic plant food.

## Where to buy Potentilla seeds:

You can find Potentilla seeds on our website at [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)!



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