

September 2021:

Potato Month

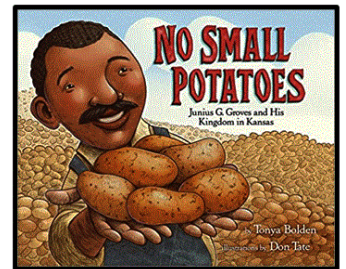


Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

NO SMALL POTATOES

by *Tonya Bolden*

Junius G. Groves came from humble beginnings in the Bluegrass State. Born in Kentucky into slavery, freedom came when he was still a young man and he intended to make a name for himself. Along with thousands of other African Americans who migrated from the South, Junius walked west and stopped in Kansas. Working for a pittance on a small potato farm was no reason to feel sorry for himself, especially when he's made foreman. But Junius did dream of owning his own farm, so he did the next best thing. He rented the land and worked hard! As he built his empire, he also built a family, and he built them both on tons and tons and tons of potatoes. He never quit working hard, even as the naysayers doubted him, and soon he was declared Potato King of the World and had five hundred acres and a castle to call his own.



Click the book to watch on YouTube

Fun Facts:

- September is National Potato Month. The average American eats 110 pounds of potatoes each year!
- The first potato patch in North America was planted in 1719, in New Hampshire . The first french fries were served at the White House during the Presidency of Thomas Jefferson some 80 years later.
- McDonald's uses more than 3.4 billion pounds of U.S.-grown potatoes every year. They're the biggest buyer of potatoes in the entire world!
- Potatoes are grown commercially in 30 states, but Idaho grows more potatoes than any other state. In 2019 937,300 acres of pottatoes were harvested in the United States.

Videos:

- [POTATO | How Does it Grow?](#)
- [California Potato Farmer Brian Kirschenmann](#)
- [How McDonald's Makes Its Fries](#)
- [Idaho Potato Harvest](#)
- [Runaway Slave Became America's Richest Black Man | Junius G. Groves](#)

Activities:

- [Grow Potatoes in the school garden](#)
- [Make a potato stamp](#)
- [Visit a Certified Farm Marke to pick your own potatoes](#)
- [Biography writing graphic organizer](#)
- [No Cook Potato Salad](#)
- [Best Ever Potato Chip Dip](#)

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