



Grow your own...

Potatoes

There are different varieties of potatoes: Earlies and Maincrop.
This refers to their planting and harvesting time.

Earlies: Planted from March to April and harvested from June into July. These tend to be smaller, salad potatoes.

Maincrop: Planted from April to May and harvested around September. These tend to be larger potatoes.

- ✓ Easy to grow
- ✓ Plant between March and April
- ✓ Contains Vitamin C
- ✓ Harvest in 10-20 weeks, depending on potato variety



From your growing pack, you will need:

- ✓ Compost
- ✓ Large pot, bags or clear ground

PLANT

Chit indoors (Feb-Mar):

Place in a cool light place for 6 weeks to grow shoots ('chitting'). Once the shoots are 2-3cm long they are ready to plant.

Plant outdoors (Mar-Apr):

In a bag or large pot: Place 15-20cm of soil in the bottom of the bag/pot. Push the potato with the shoots pointing upwards about 10cm deep. Put one or two potatoes in each bag/pot.

In the ground: Plant each tuber 15cm deep with shoots pointing up. Space 'earlies' 30cm apart in 2 rows (roughly 50cm apart). Space 'maincrops' 35cm apart in 2 rows (roughly 70cm apart).

Protect early shoots from frost with horticultural fleece.

GROW

Pull soil gently around the stems ('earth-up') when the shoots are 15cm tall, leaving the top leaves showing. Keep earthing as they grow.

Water your potatoes if the soil is dry, especially if they are growing in bags.

EAT

Earlies: Harvest once the plants flower, usually late June into July. Eat within a few days of harvesting.

Maincrop: Harvest once the plant start to die back from mid-September into November. These can be left in the ground until needed.

Top tip: Check which variety you have as they all have different purposes.