



Chitting

**CHITTING**

Before planting the seed potatoes, place them in shallow trays (egg boxes are ideal) with any shoots facing upwards. This process is called 'chitting' and takes roughly 6 weeks. Place trays in the light and protect from frost and extreme heat.

# Planting outside

**PREPARE / PLANT**

Choose a sunny spot (avoiding frost pockets), dig the soil well and add Westland Organic Vegetable Growing Compost. Before planting, break down any clods and feed the area with Westland organic Potato & Vegetable Feed. Lay out the seed potatoes with the shoots / rose end facing upwards. Plant 25-30cm (10-12in) apart and 15cm (6in) deep. Allow 60cm (24in) between rows.

**CARE**

When the first shoots appear, hoe a little soil over them if there is a chance of frost. Water well in dry periods. Once shoots are 5cm (2in), pile earth around them to block out the light. Repeat process.

**HARVEST**

A fairly reliable sign that your potatoes can be harvested is when the plants start to flower in earnest. Cut off the flowers so that the plants don't put all their energy into making seed. The seeds are also poisonous and should be removed if you have children and pets in your garden.

# Planting in containers



Prepare/Plant



Care



Harvest

You will need 60L of Westland organic Vegetable Growing Compost. Place 40L into the bottom of the Potato Bag. Position 3 to 5 sprouting seed potatoes on the top of the compost and cover over with 10-15cm (4-6in) of compost.

Water the tubers and keep the compost moist but not saturated. The plants will start to root and shoot, leave them until the shoots and leaves push through the compost layer. Cover with a new layer of 10cm (4in) of fresh Westland organic Vegetable Growing Compost. Repeat this process a second time. When the leaves are 20cm above the bag, start feeding every 7-10 days with Growmore.

When the plants start to flower, usually between 9 and 12 weeks after planting, you can carefully remove the whole plant and new potatoes, then cook them.

- Earlies: Lift once big enough to eat, normally after 9-12 weeks.
- Maincrop: Lift as required or store in a cool dark frost-free place.

# Protecting your crops from pests & diseases

Avoid pest and disease problems by choosing resistant varieties of certified seed potatoes. Good soil cultivation before planting, and changing the location where potatoes are grown every year (crop rotation) will also help. Key pests and diseases include:

slugs

Slugs burrow into developing potatoes, spoiling the crop, and making them impossible to store successfully. Regular treatments with **Eraza Slug & Snail Killer** will ensure slugs are kept in check.



potato blight

Potato blight is a serious disease that can devastate the crop. Foliage develops black spots, which quickly spread throughout the plant, leaving leaves and stems a slimy black mass. Disease spores can wash down into the soil to infect tubers. Spray at very first sign of disease with a suitable fungicide. If the infestation is more advanced, remove all foliage quickly to save the tubers.



potato greenfly & blackfly

Greenfly / Blackfly can be a problem on young shoots, for example when chitting potatoes. They can spread virus and diseases to your crop. **Plant Rescue Fruit & Vegetable Bug Killer** can be safely used on potatoes.

potato scab

Potato scab is caused by bacteria in the soil. Infected potatoes form scabby, disfigured skins. Prevent scab by growing potatoes in special potato compost, or by lining planting trenches with acid materials such as moss peat.

potato eelworm

Potato eelworm is a microscopic pest that causes patchy growth and dieback of plants. No controls are available for eelworm. Gardeners must rely on planting clean, certified seed into clean, uninfected soil and rotating crops so that potatoes are not grown in the same spot more than once every 4 years.

please visit [gardenhealth.com](http://gardenhealth.com) and register your details to receive our monthly garden newsletter.



**unwins**

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Always read the label. Use pesticides safely. Plant Rescue Fruit & Vegetable Bug Killer contains lambda-cyhalothrin. Eraza contains metaldehyde.

# Selection Guide

To help you get the most from your potatoes and to find the varieties to best suit your needs, here is a useful guide:

FIRST EARLIES		Plant: Feb-Apr	Harvest: May-Jun							
variety name	picture	yield	blight resistant	flesh colour	boil	mash	chip	roast	bake	salad
Annabelle		HIGH	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓
Arran Pilot		MEDIUM	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓
Colleen (organic)		HIGH	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
Duke of York		MEDIUM	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Foremost		MEDIUM	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Home Guard		MEDIUM	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Maris Bard		HIGH	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Pentland Javelin		HIGH	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Red Duke of York		MEDIUM	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Rocket		V. HIGH	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Sharpe's Express		MEDIUM	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Swift		V. HIGH	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vale's Emerald		MEDIUM	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓

SECOND EARLIES		Plant: Mar-May	Harvest: Jul-Aug							
variety name	picture	yield	blight resistant	flesh colour	boil	mash	chip	roast	bake	salad
British Queen		HIGH	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Elgar		HIGH	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X
Estima		V. HIGH	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
Kestrel		HIGH	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Maris Peer		MEDIUM	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Orla (organic)		HIGH	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Smile		MEDIUM	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X
Wilja		V. HIGH	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X

MAIN CROPS		Plant: Mar-Apr	Harvest: Jul-Oct							
variety name	picture	yield	blight resistant	flesh colour	boil	mash	chip	roast	bake	salad
Cara		V. HIGH	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Desiree		V. HIGH	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Golden Wonder		MEDIUM	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Kerrs Pink		MEDIUM	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
King Edward		HIGH	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Lady Balfour (organic)		HIGH	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X
Maris Piper		HIGH	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Pentland Crown		V. HIGH	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Picasso		V. HIGH	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Record		MEDIUM	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Robinta (organic)		HIGH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X

SALADS		Plant: Mar-May	Harvest: Jul-Sep							
variety name	picture	yield	blight resistant	flesh colour	boil	mash	chip	roast	bake	salad
Bambino (organic)		HIGH	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓
Charlotte		MEDIUM	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓
International Kidney		MEDIUM	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓
Juliette		MEDIUM	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Pink Fir Apple		MEDIUM	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓

# Getting the most from seed potatoes



**Potato Growing Bag**  
This specially designed planter can grow crop after crop of tasty potatoes perfect for small gardens or trialing new varieties.



**organic Potato & Vegetable Feed**  
A balanced mix of essential nutrients to encourage strong leaf and stem growth, healthy roots and tastier vegetables.



**organic Vegetable Growing Compost**  
A nutrient rich compost that helps build strong healthy roots, ideal for growing all types of vegetables.