



GROW YOUR OWN WITH

EMMERDALE

POTATOES



Plant early new potatoes in April for harvest in June and July. For maincrop potatoes plant in April for harvest in August to October. Make sure you only use certified 'Seed' potatoes as these are guaranteed to be virus and disease free.



'Chit' potatoes by allowing them to develop short shoots before being planted. Do this by laying them in trays / egg boxes 'rose' up (the end with most 'eyes' / sprouting points) and placing them in a light, warm, frost-free, sheltered position. Once sprouted, move to a cooler position for about 6 weeks when 'chits' are 1-2cm long. Chitting can reduce the time to harvest by up to 3 weeks, depending on variety, growing conditions etc.



To plant chitted potatoes in a container select one which allows for drainage and at least 30cm growing depth e.g. an old compost bag with small holes punched out. Fill with 10-20cm of growing medium such as organic peat free soil based or potting compost. Place 2-3 potatoes equally spaced (approx 30cm apart) in the bag and cover them with 5-10cm of compost. Water well using a fine rose watering can.



Keep in a light, sheltered position and water lightly and consistently, to ensure the compost remains moist throughout the growing period. An organic liquid nitrogen feed may be added during this phase. If using shop bought products follow manufacturers' instructions.



As the plant grows the stem and leaves should be 'earthed-up' to prevent exposure to daylight which turns the potatoes green and potentially poisonous. When stems reach 15-20cm high, pile compost around them leaving about 10cm of foliage above the surface. Repeat the process, as required, so that no light reaches the tubers.



First Early potatoes should be ready to harvest between 50-110 days, Second Earlies 110-120 days and Maincrops 125-140 days. Lift potatoes on a dry day or in a dry place, checking readiness by removing some earth and inspecting a few of the tubers. When lifted, either consume shortly afterwards or leave them to dry out for a few hours before storing. Foliage can be disposed of as green waste.