



Growing your own...

potatoes



When to plant?

March - May

When to harvest?

August - October

Where to plant?

Soil beds or in large pots.
Potato planter sacks are ideal
for growing on the patio.



Growing your own... potatoes.

There is nothing more rewarding than the first bite you take from a potato you've grown yourself. Not only is it fun, but it's quick, easy and cheap too.

What you will need:

Potato fertiliser
Large container
Watering can

Trowel and fork
Seed potatoes

What to do...

1. Buy your seed potatoes in late January/ February. Using egg boxes (or a large bowl), stand them sprouting end up in a light, frosty-free place. They are ready to plant when the shoots are about 2.5cm long.
2. Dig a narrow hole that's roughly 12cm deep and line it with compost. Plant your sprouted potatoes roughly 25cm apart, in rows that are about 60cm apart.
3. This needs to be done in a soil bed or large container, early to mid March, with the shoots pointing upwards. Make sure that you give your thirsty plants a drink of water.
4. Hand-fill the remaining hole over each potato with compost, being careful not to damage any shoots.
5. When the stems of your potato plants grow to around 20cm high, you should 'earth up'. To do this, cover new growth with a small amount of soil around the base of the plant to encourage growth. Repeat this every few weeks.
6. Water regularly when the soil is looking or feeling dry.
7. Potatoes are ready to pick when the leaves begin to turn yellow. Lift them gently with a gardening fork.

TOP TIP

"Don't grow potatoes in the same soil for two consecutive years as this could cause disease."
