



POTATO PLANTING BAG GROWING ADVICE

INS070

SOIL AND POSITION

Position your Potato Planting Bags in a sheltered, sunny position in the garden or on the patio. When growing in beds, potatoes need deep, fertile soil with a PH of 5-6 and to replicate these conditions in the Planting Bags, fill with a mix of rotted compost, manure and good garden soil.

WHEN TO PLANT

First early potato varieties can be planted in February and all other types from March onwards. Tubers should not be planted any later than late May. Many gardeners like to 'chit', or sprout, their potatoes before planting – place the tubers in a cool, frost free place with natural light until the chits reach about 2.5cm (1") in length (approx. 5 weeks). Chitting is not essential but it will give you a bigger crop. The advantage of growing potatoes in planters means they can be started off in sheds or greenhouses for the first 2-3 weeks for a much earlier harvest. Alternatively the planters can be left outdoors, covered in clear polythene to protect the shoots from frost to bring them on earlier.

Type	Plant in Bags	Harvest	Plant to Harvest Time
First Early Colleen	Feb-April	May-June	10 weeks
Second Early Maris Peer	March-May	July- Sept	13 weeks
Second Early Charlotte	March-April	June-July	13 weeks

PLANTING DEPTH

Add 10-15cm of compost into the bottom of the planter and plant the 3-5 seed potatoes shoots or eyes uppermost, 5cm deep. Put one potato in the centre and the others out to the edges. Slightly dampen the soil after planting and if frosty, cover with newspaper, removing when the danger of frost has passed. Leave room to earth up as potatoes develop, as exposure to sunlight will turn new tubers green and poisonous. Simply draw soil up around the stem (known as earthing up) as it grows, or add around 10cm of compost when the plants are around 15cm tall. Repeat this process as the shoots appear through the soil. As more compost is added ensure the planter is in its permanent site before it becomes too heavy to move it to another location.

FERTILISER

Apply a high potash fertiliser either when, or shortly after, planting and ensure the potato tubers do not come into direct contact with the fertiliser granules. Potatoes require feeding when not grown directly in soil to obtain valuable nutrients needed for growth.

WATER

Heavy watering when the new tubers reach the size of marbles should result in a higher yield. It's especially important to make sure the soil in bags and containers is kept moist as it can very quickly dry out.

HARVESTING AND STORAGE

Depending on the variety, potatoes take the following time to reach maturity;

Type	Plant to Harvest Time
First Early	10 weeks
Second Early	13 weeks
Early Maincrop	15 weeks
Late Maincrop	20 weeks



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Harvest after the potato plants have produced tiny white or pink flowers and the main stems have leant over in the planter. Dig down into the planter to see if your potatoes are ready. Empty the planters in dry conditions, leave the potatoes on the soil to dry and then store in boxes or Hessian sacks, **NOT** polythene – this causes the stored tubers to rot.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP...

If you have any questions regarding your Potato Planting Bags, please do not hesitate to contact us;

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