

How to grow potatoes

Step-by-step guide to cut out and keep

How long... From sprout to spud in 12-28 weeks



Potatoes like growing in a sunny position

You will need...

Seed potatoes
Container, Reusable tub
Multi-purpose compost
Multi-purpose fertiliser such as Vitax Q4
Watering can
Multi-purpose fertiliser
Fork or Trowel

What type...

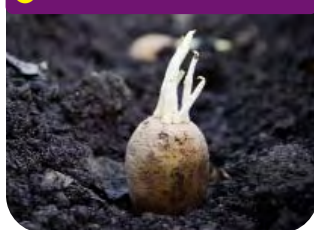
There are 3 types of potatoes you can grow:
First earlies - Ready early Summer. Known as new potatoes
Second earlies - Ready mid to late Summer
Main crop - Ready in the Autumn

1 SPROUT



You can buy your bags of seed potatoes from January onwards. Lay them in a cool, dry, light place or on a windowsill with their "eyes" facing upwards. In about 6 weeks they'll sprout shoots (called "chitting"). When the chits are about 13mm long they are ready for planting.

2 PLANT



In early Spring plant them out in a pot, tub or in the ground with about 10cm of soil underneath. If you're growing them in the ground, plant the potatoes in a trench about 40cm apart and 15cm deep. If you are using a container make sure that it has good drainage and is deep enough for the potatoes to grow.

3 COVER



Cover the potatoes so that the soil covers the tops of the shoots and water well. Continue to cover the shoots as they appear so they continue to be buried, called "earthing up". Continue doing this until the container is full.

4 GROW



Keep your potatoes well covered as they'll turn green (and poisonous!) in sunlight. Water well and feed regularly with a general-purpose fertiliser such as Vitax Q4.

5 HARVEST



Once your potatoes have flowered they are ready to harvest. Gently lift them with a fork and collect them by hand. Brush off the soil and let them lie for a few hours on the surface to let them dry.

6 EAT



Gently wash any surplus soil off your potatoes and cook!

Millbrook at Crowborough

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Opening times: 9 to 5pm
* Mon-Sat, 10-4pm Sun

* Closing hours: 5pm January and February,
5.30 pm March.


Millbrook
growing your garden

www.millbrookgardencentre.co.uk

Millbrook at Gravesend

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Opening times: 9 to 5pm
* Mon-Sat, 10-4pm Sun

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5.30 pm March.