



Tui Grow Bags are ideal for growing potatoes

A FRIEND IN
YOUR GARDEN
FOR OVER
100 YEARS



Seed Potatoes



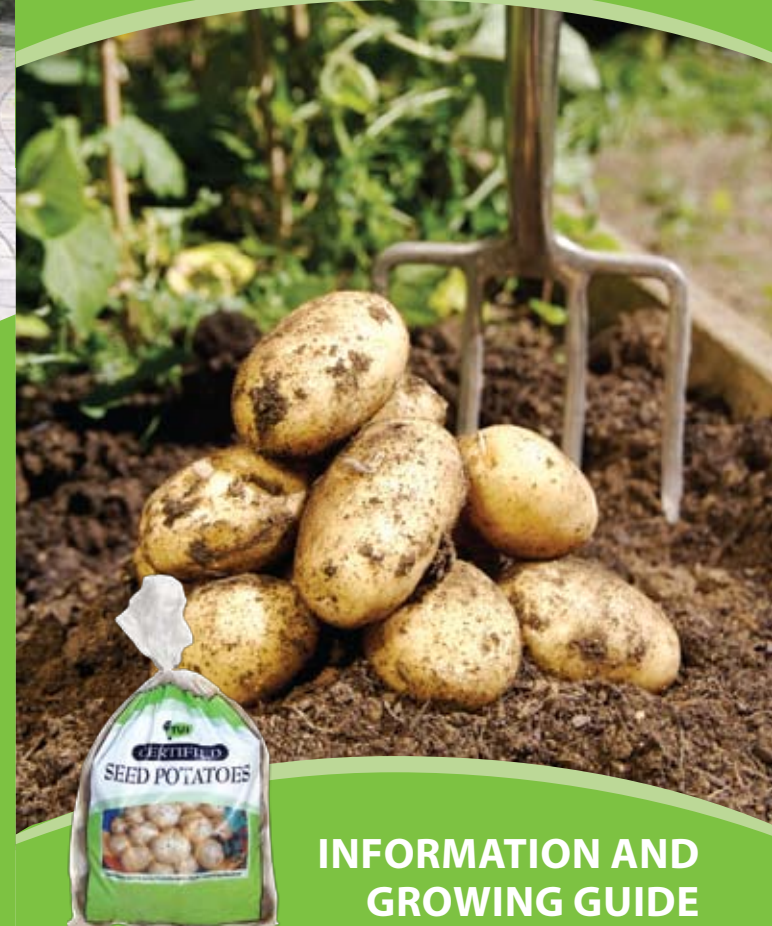
TUI PRODUCTS PROVIDES ALL YOU NEED FOR
A BUMPER POTATO CROP EVERY TIME. YOU CAN
TRUST TUI TO BE A FRIEND IN YOUR GARDEN.



A FRIEND IN YOUR GARDEN

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**INFORMATION AND
GROWING GUIDE**

Growing potatoes at home is a popular and rewarding activity for many New Zealanders and with so many varieties there is something to suit all preferences. Potatoes are an important major staple in our diets as they are a great source in vitamin B & C, minerals and fibre and are low in calories. Potatoes can be grown in all parts of New Zealand and due to our climate are available most of the year. Remember to always buy certified seed potatoes as these have been independently inspected and certified to ensure that they are true to type and will grow a healthy crop. Certification is extremely important for seed potatoes because you know the product meets strict conditions and disease tolerance standards.



Seed Potato Preparation

Tui Seed Potatoes should be bought at least one month prior to planting to enable them to sprout. Remove from their packaging and place in trays in a dry, well-lit and airy situation until sprouts are approximately 20–40mm long.

Soil and Area Preparation

Potatoes are best grown in the garden but if you are low on space they also do well in containers, large plastic bags, buckets or tyres. You can choose a sheltered area like alongside fences or hedges providing the plants have access to sun and rain.

Increasing the 'richness' of your soil by adding organic matter like Tui Organic Compost will give your seed potatoes their optimum taste. Tui Vegetable Mix is an ideal planting medium for containers or to dig into the soil. Another way to enrich the soil is to plant a 'green crop' of Tui Lupin or Tui Mustard Seed prior to planting. Use gypsum as an alternative to lime where you are planning to plant your potato crop as lime can encourage scab. Having well prepared soil will help the tubers form healthy growth.

Tui Tip: Avoid planting potatoes in the same place each year or where tomatoes have been planted the previous season.

Potato Fertiliser

Potatoes are gross feeders so need a specialty fertiliser to perform at their best. Tui Potato Food is blended with all the necessary nutrients to promote high yielding potatoes including nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. Tui Potato Food boosts tubers after planting and assists in correcting soil consistency. Prior to planting apply 300g (approx 1 cup) per square metre. Fertiliser should always be mixed with the soil and watered in well.



Tui Tip: Add a base organic fertiliser like Tui Blood and Bone to optimise crop potential.

Planting

Place seed potatoes in a furrow 250-350mm apart (plant main crop varieties at least 300mm apart). Make sure the sprouts are facing upward and carefully cover with soil (to a maximum of 50mm). Continue mounding up the soil as the shoots grow to give protection against wind and frost. In areas prone to frost a concave top on the mound will ensure that any available moisture will reach the plants.

Cultivation

Hoeing regularly around the sprouts will keep the crop weed free – but be careful not to damage the delicate shoots.

When watering be sure to only water the soil, keeping the foliage dry as this will discourage blight appearing. Watering is very important at flowering time.

Tui Tip: Some varieties like Rocket do not flower so monitor progress by length of time instead.

Pests and Diseases

Slugs and snails can affect seed potatoes in the home garden. A pelletised bait such as Tui Quash is recommended as it is very effective at killing slugs and snails but will not harm earthworms and beneficial insects in the garden. Aphids, potato tuber moth and wire worm are other insects that may affect the yield of your crops. Mounding prevents the potato tuber moth reaching the potatoes and laying its eggs. Blight is a common disease in many areas so a regular spraying of fungicide on the foliage is recommended. Ask your garden centre or agricultural merchant for advice on how to control pests and diseases.

Harvesting

Early varieties are ready to harvest approximately three months after planting or when the flowers are fully opened. Main and late cropping varieties are ready when the foliage dies off. To harvest, move the soil away and then use a garden fork and lift the tubers carefully from under the plant. Take care not to damage tubers, as once damaged, they will not keep for long.

Tui Tip: Dug up plants can be chopped up and buried in the soil as compost providing they were not infected with late blight.

Storage

To check for storability, if you can rub the skin off easily with your thumb, they will not store. Early varieties have skins that make them unsuitable for storing so eat these first and allow the rest to mature further. As soon as they have been dug, dry thoroughly and store tubers in a sack, paper bag or shallow boxes in a cool, dark, well ventilated position. Do not leave potatoes exposed to light after they have been dug up. Make regular checks for removal of rotting potatoes. Carefully stored potatoes should last up to six months.



Seed potato varieties

Tuber	Skin	Flesh	General	Maturity
ROCKET				
Round	White	White	Fastest producing of early varieties. Good boiling potato with waxy texture.	Very early variety approx 90 days
SWIFT				
Oval	Smooth & white	Creamy yellow	Fast growing with exceptional taste. Will not discolour or disintegrate on steaming.	Very early variety approx 90 days
CLIFF KIDNEY				
Kidney	Slight pink tinge	White	An excellent, firm boiling potato for early cropping.	Early variety approx 100 days
JERSEY BENNE				
Oval	White	White	A medium cropper that can be grown in most soils. Good potato for mashing or boiling.	Early variety approx 100 days
MARIS ANCHOR				
Oval	White	White	Yields well in most soil types but likes shelter. Keeps well with excellent cooking qualities.	Early-main variety approx 110 days
AGRIA				
Long oval	Cream	Yellow	High yielder. Very versatile cooking qualities. Great for French fries.	Main variety approx 130 days
HEATHER				
Long oval	Smooth & purple	White	Good for all general cooking, boils, mashes and roast.	Main variety approx 130 days
ILAM HARDY				
Oval to round	White	White	Very adaptable and will give a good yield over a wide variety of conditions. Excellent for boiling or frying.	Early-main variety approx 130 days
DESIREE				
Oval	Pink/red	Creamy yellow	Likes reasonably fertile soils. Good for all general cooking.	Main variety approx 140 days
KARAKA				
Oval	White	White	The great all-rounder – grows well in all soil conditions and is very disease resistant.	Main variety approx 140 days
NADINE				
Round	White	White	Requires adequate soil moisture at all times. Good boiling potato and general use.	Main variety approx 140 days
RED RASCAL				
Oval	Crimson	White	Good all round cooker. Resistant to late blight and powdery scab. Suitable to be grown organically.	Main variety approx 150 days
MOONLIGHT				
Oval	White	White	Excellent drought and wind tolerance. Very high yielder. Excellent boiling and frying qualities.	Main variety approx 160 days
RUA				
Round to oval	White	White	Will adapt and produce heavily on most soil types. Keeps well with excellent cooking qualities.	Main variety approx 160 days