

GROW YOUR OWN POTATOES



Factsheet 1: Planting my potatoes

Equipment

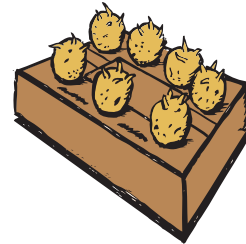
- Seed potatoes and grow bags - use those provided by the AHDB Potatoes if you are entering the Grow Your Own Potatoes competition.
- The competition box or an egg box for the chitting process (see below)
- Compost or soil
- Paper of plastic sheet to go under the container

Instructions

Step 1

Put your seed potatoes on to the chitting tray in the competition box or into an open egg box with the sprouts facing up. Place on a windowsill for two weeks to allow the sprout to harden.

This process is called chitting.



Step 2 – Choosing a container

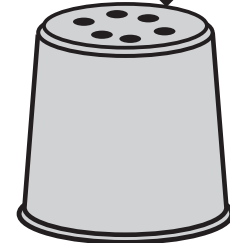
Use a black plastic growing bag or a suitable container. If using a metal bucket, get an adult to make drainage holes in the bottom using a hammer and nail. If you are using a plastic bucket, then it may be advisable to use a drill for the task.



Step 3 – Fill your container

Once chitting is complete, half fill the containers to be used with compost or soil. Remember that if you are entering the competition, you will need to use the seed potatoes and the grow bags provided by AHDB Potatoes.

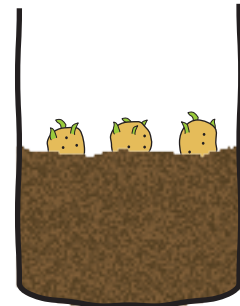
If you are planting in raised beds, make a suitable size hole for each seed potato to approximately 1.5 times its own depth, place the seed potatoes in the holes and cover with soil.



Step 4 – Placing the seed potatoes

Place three seed potatoes in each container at equal spacing with the sprouts facing up.

Remember that if you are entering the competition, you will need to label the grow bags for future reference using the stickers provided.



Step 5 – Fill up the container

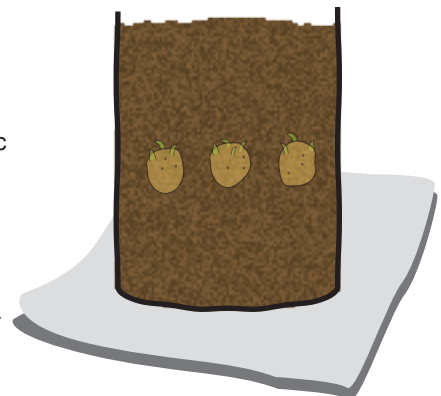
Fill the container nearly to the top with compost or soil and gently pat down. Water lightly if the compost or soil is dry.

Step 6 – Position the container in the best place

Place the container somewhere reasonably light and not too cold or warm. The ideal temperature is around 10-15° C.

Make sure that you place containers on some newspapers, a tray or some plastic sheet to prevent any water or soil leaking on to the floor.

If positioned outside, bring in containers if there is likely to be a frost.



Top tips

- Make sure that gloves are worn when handling potatoes and soil or compost. Wash hands thoroughly after completing the tasks.
- Keep the container in a sunny and airy position.
- Keep the soil moist (but not waterlogged) and away from any likely frost.
- See Factsheet 2: Growing my potatoes for more growing tips and Factsheet 3: Growing tips for further information

