



## 10 Steps to Achieving Spectacular Spuds



Step 1: Your seed potatoes will arrive a few weeks before they need planting, to give plenty of time for 'chitting' – the production of shoots.

Step 2: Unpack them and arrange in a single layer in shallow trays or empty egg boxes with the rose ends (those with the most 'eyes') pointing up.

Step 3: Place in a cool, well-lit place where there is no risk of frost. Short, dark green 'chits' will form in a few weeks.

Step 4: In February or March, once the frosts have passed, position your empty planters in a sunny spot where you want to grow your potatoes. Add compost to your planter to form a layer at least 10cm deep.

Step 5: Carefully position three or four seed potatoes on top of the compost with their shoots pointing up - space them equally apart and not too close to the edges of the container.

Step 6: Cover them with 10cm of compost on top. Make sure there is space left at the top of the pot to add more compost later (see next step). You'll need to protect your potatoes from frosts with horticultural fleece.

Step 7: The first shoots should emerge after 3-4 weeks. It's now time to add more compost to cover these shoots except for the very tips, which should stick out.

Step 8: In dry weather, water in the early morning or late evening. After they have been growing for about a month, start to add some liquid tomato feed when watering.

Step 9: After a few weeks, the green shoots will push up through the compost again. Wait until they have grown about 10cm above the top of the container and then carefully add more compost around the stems, so that the container is almost full of compost (leave room for watering). Continue to protect them from frosts with horticultural fleece.

Step 10: First earlies (new potatoes) should be ready to eat 8-12 weeks from planting – usually your potatoes will be ready to harvest when the plants flower. To be extra sure, gently dig in the compost with your hand and you will be able to feel the size of the potatoes. Once large enough, start your harvest!