How to grow potato's



Potato varieties for growing

Seconds

Charlotte
Maris Peer
Jazzy
Kestrel

Main crops

All Blue
Bintje (an heirloom)
Butte
Canela Russet
Carola
Desiree
Fingerling Salad
German Butterball
King Harry (an heirloom)
Purple Peruvian
Russet Norkotah

Preparing the ground



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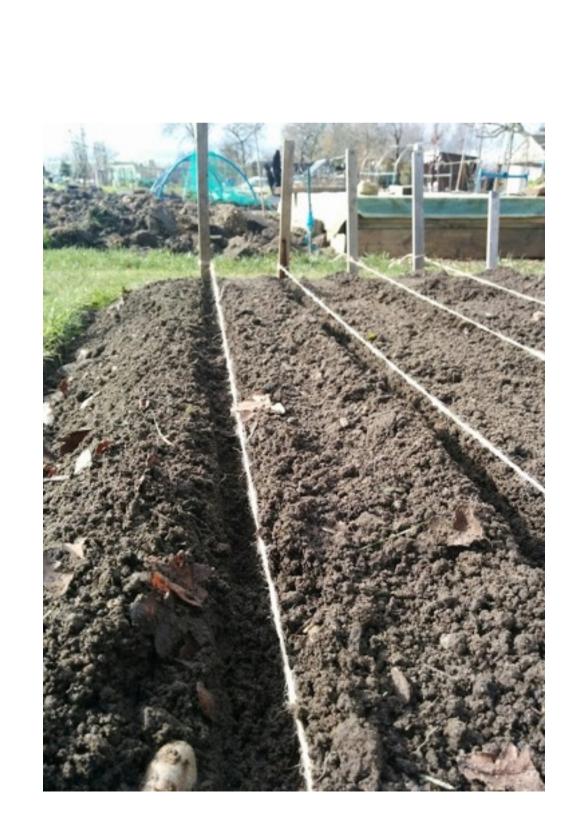
Before planting your potato seeds make sure the ground is well prepared and raked.



To create your ditches tie some garden string into a peg and put this into the ground.

Pull this across your plot to the other end and place the second peg into the ground.

You can now create a straight line ditch.



Following your string guides dig trenches 10 cm deep. The width of the trench should be the width of your spade.



Planting

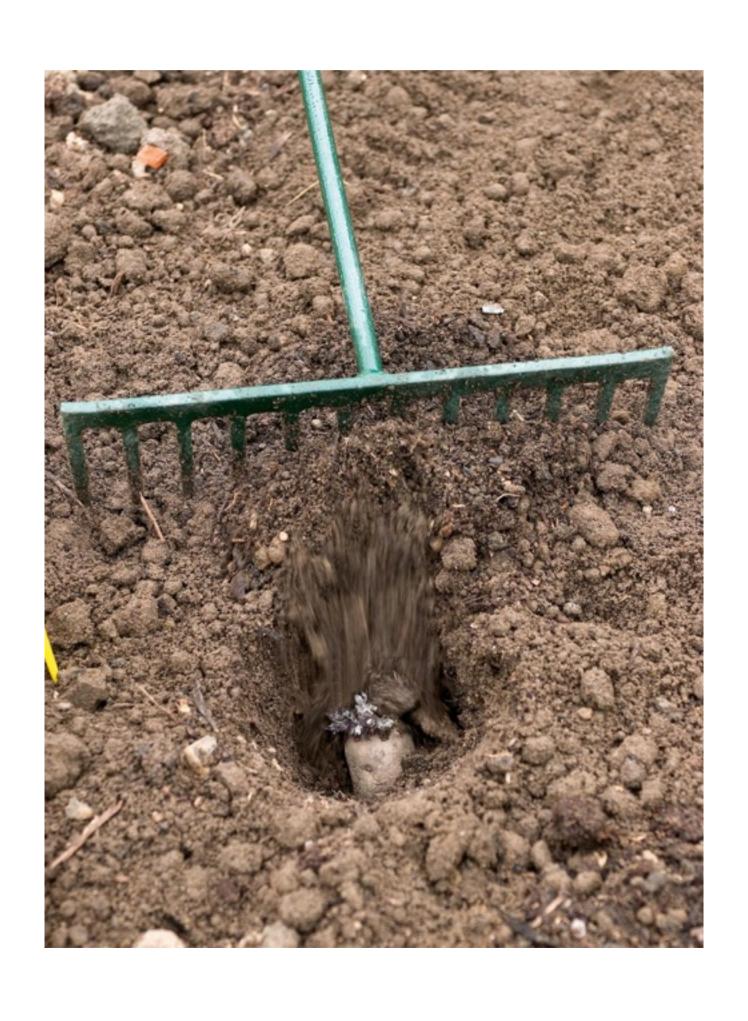


Planting

Plant each potato in the trench 10 cm apart.



Cover trench with soil. You can use a rake to pull over the soil to cover the potato's.





Leave enough space between your next row of potato's as you will need to build up the soil levels when the plant grows.



Rake the soil over the plants as they grow to avoid blackened shoots and delayed growing, this is called earthing up.

Eventually you will have a mound of earth with the leaves at the top.

Caring for your potato's after planting



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When the weather gets warmer the potato's will need plenty of water. You may have to water twice a day. Always water first thing in the morning or evening.



If the soil is already wet do not over water as you can cause potato blight.

To avoid potato blight buy resistant potato's like 'Hungarian Sarpo'



Harvesting



Your second potato's should be ready within 13 weeks of planting.

Your main crops will be ready 20 weeks from planting.



Main crop leaves should be allowed to wither and then cut these off before harvesting.

You must use a garden fork to lift the potato's from around the plant. Do not dig to near to the plant as you may hit the potato's below the soil surface.