



## How many potatoes can YOU grow in a bag?

Sow your potatoes now, then come along to our Potato Weigh-in at 6pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July to find out! Or weigh your harvest and email the weight (and photo if you can) to [jnessa@wea.org.uk](mailto:jnessa@wea.org.uk)



Greening Wingrove potato weigh 2015!

## How to grow potatoes in bags

- Cut drainage holes in the bottom of the bag and roll down the sides to about half the height.
- Add 8 - 10 inches of compost in bottom (and a bit of fertiliser in if you fancy).
- Put three seed potatoes on top of this compost, then cover them with a further six inches of compost.
- That's it! Put them in a sunny place, keep well watered and watch them grow. (Green shoots will appear after about four weeks).
- When your potato plants are about a foot tall, roll the bag up about six inches and fill it to within an inch of the top with compost. Keep doing this every couple of weeks until the bag is completely unrolled.
- Keep them well watered (see notes below).

## Where to grow your potatoes

Potatoes need at least six hours sun a day to do well – find a nice sunny place to put them. Ideally at the front of your house to help inspire others on your street.

## How to water

Keep the compost damp (not soaking wet). Put your finger in a few inches below the surface of the compost to check if it needs watering (it should feel damp like a wrung out flannel).

How often you need to water will depend on: the size of the plant and the weather. In hot weather, when the plants are large, they'll usually need watering every day.

NB, even in wet weather, you'll need to check if your potatoes need watering. 'Rain shadows' (caused by eg walls of buildings) can often prevent water reaching your potato bag.

## When to harvest

International Kidney potatoes, despite their funny name, are the same potato as the Jersey Royals sold in the supermarket. (They can only be called Jersey Royals if grown in Jersey).

They are most delicious when harvested young as a waxy, new potato. However, they can also be left in the bag longer to grow into a very acceptable "main crop" potato – larger, and more floury, but still with a good flavour.

*The sooner you eat your potatoes after harvesting them, the better they will taste!*

International Kidney are 'Second Earlies'. This means they take about 13-17 weeks to grow before they are ready for harvesting. (Potatoes are either called 'First Earlies', 'Second Earlies' or 'Main Crop' depending on how fast they grow.)

Harvest your potatoes either:

- After they have finished flowering or
- When the foliage starts to go yellow.

## How to harvest potatoes

The easiest way is to tip the whole bag out and go through the compost to find the potatoes. (Kids love this!).

However, *before you do that*, it's a good idea to put your hand in and see if you can find one or two potatoes – this will help you find out if they're ready. If they look very small, leave them for another week or two.



## CONTACT THE PROJECT TEAM

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