

Growing a Potato in a Bag

(This method can be used for one bag or a row)

Planting the Potato using a 17 litre Polypot

- 1/4 fill the bag with multipurpose compost
- Add an egg cup of fertiliser and mix thoroughly (*potato is a stem tuber so all potatoes will be produced above the original seed*)
- Nestle the potato on the fertilised compost with the chits uppermost (*it is usual to reduce the chits to two in order to encourage strong haulm (leaf) growth. Leaving all the chits on may result in more, but smaller potatoes*)
- Top up the bag using multi-purpose compost (*no additional fertiliser needs be added to the 'top up' compost*)

Placing the Bag

- Dig a shallow hole (*or trench if more than one bag*) four inches deep and twelve inches square
- Fork potato fertiliser into the base of the hole/trench (*about the same amount as you used in the bag, slug pellets can be sprinkled in the trench if slugs are a problem*)
- Place the prepared bag in the hole/trench and pull the excavated soil around the bag (*pulling the soil around will ensure the roots are kept cool*)
- Water well, both in and around the bag.
- Subsequent watering needs to be both in and outside of the bag (*this is to ensure roots are teased out of the bag and into the fertilised trench*)
- There should be no need, but if the potatoes show through before we are frost free protection will be required (*ordinary fleece will be fine*)
- In growth, it is a good idea to support the haulms to keep them growing upwards and stop them flopping to the ground (*this helps development and keeps the area around the root clear of leaf debris and a home for slugs and snails*)

TOP TIPS

IT MAY BE BENEFICIAL TO MAKE SOME MORE HOLES IN THE BAG IN ORDER FOR THE ROOTS MORE EASILY TO DEVELOP AND FEED EXTERNALLY

FOR FERTILISER, I USE FISH, BLOOD AND BONE IN THE TRENCH AND VITAX Q4 IN THE BAG

CURRENTLY I PURCHASE MY 17L POLYPOTS FROM HADOPOTS (REF. HP15)