

Certified Seed Potatoes

Variety	Characteristics			Cooking Value					
	Shape	Skin	Flesh	Boil/Mash	salad	Dry Bake	Roast	Fry	Microwave
Bintje	oblong-long	cream	light yellow	♦♦	♦♦♦	♦	♦	♦♦	
Bismark	oval-long	creamy white	white	♦♦♦	♦♦♦	♦	♦	<i>nr</i>	
Brownell	round	brownish pink	white	♦♦♦	♦	♦	♦♦	<i>nr</i>	
Coliban	round	white	white	♦	♦	♦♦	♦	<i>nr</i>	♦♦
Dutch Cream	oblong-long	rich yellow	yellow	♦♦	♦♦♦	♦♦	♦♦	♦	
Desiree	round	pink	pale yellow	♦♦	♦♦♦	♦♦	♦♦	<i>nr</i>	♦♦
Kennebec	oblong long	white	white	♦♦	♦	♦♦	♦♦	♦♦♦	♦
King Edward	oval-long	white/pink	white/pink	♦♦	<i>nr</i>	♦♦♦	♦♦♦	♦	
Kipfler	cigar	yellow	light yellow	♦♦	♦♦♦	♦	♦♦	<i>nr</i>	
Nicola	oblong-long	rich yellow	yellow	♦♦	♦♦♦	♦♦	♦♦	♦	
Nooksack	oval-long	russet	white	♦	<i>nr</i>	♦♦♦	♦♦	♦♦♦	
Norland	round	red	white	♦♦	♦♦	♦	♦	<i>nr</i>	
Pink Eye	round	cream/mauve	cream-yellow	♦♦♦	♦♦	♦	♦	♦	
Pink Fir Apple	cigar	light pink	cream	<i>nr</i>	♦♦♦	♦	♦♦	♦	
Pontiac	round	red	white	♦♦♦	♦♦	♦♦	♦♦	<i>nr</i>	♦♦♦
Purple Congo	cigar	purple	purple	♦♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	
Russet Burbank	long	russet	white	♦	<i>nr</i>	♦♦♦	♦♦	♦♦♦	
Sebago	oblong-long	white	white	♦♦♦	♦♦	♦♦	♦♦	♦♦	
Sequoia	flat-oval	cream	white	♦♦	♦♦	♦	♦	<i>nr</i>	
Shepody	long/flat	white	white	♦♦	♦♦	♦	♦	♦♦♦	
Tasman	oval-round	pink	white	♦♦♦	♦♦	♦	♦	♦♦	
Up to Date	oval/flat	cream	pale yellow	♦♦	♦	♦♦♦	♦♦	<i>nr</i>	

Key: ♦♦♦ Excellent ♦♦ Good ♦ Fair *nr* Not recommended



~ Planting
 ~ Growing
 ~ Descriptions
 ~ Advice



Why buy certified seed?

Tasmania's certified seed potato production system is managed by the Tasmanian Institute of

Agricultural Research (TIAR) and operates under the National Standards for the Certification of Seed Potatoes.

Potatoes are prone to many diseases, and so monitoring of seed crops is a necessity because of the risk of a diseased plant transferring the same problem to the tubers.

What is Certified Seed?

The purpose of Certified Seed Schemes throughout the world is to minimise disease incidence and provide the best quality seed.

“Certified” does not mean that there isn't any disease present, only that the seed has met the criteria as set down in the National Standards for the Certification of Seed Potatoes. "Certified" means that a particular seed line has passed all the requirements of both field and tuber inspections. If the crop has passed field inspections, it is termed "Provisional".

How do I know I'm buying certified seed?

All provisional and certified seed is accompanied by official labels, which are only distributed by TIAR. These labels include information such as variety and generation, grower, and date packed. Always ask to view the label as your guarantee that you are getting the variety that you have asked for and the best quality seed available.

How do I grow potatoes?

Pre-Planting storage of your certified seed

Your Certified seed potatoes should be stored in a cool place such as your garden shed. About 4 weeks before you want to plant your seed, place them in a warmer area and they will begin to sprout. When this occurs the seed is ready to be planted.

Site selection and soil preparation

Potatoes like an open, sunny, well drained position in your garden, but preferably sheltered from strong winds. Try to choose a spot in your garden that has not had potatoes grown for at least 3 years. Even longer if possible.



Fertilisers

To get the best yield from your certified seed potatoes, a highly fertile soil is required. The addition of fertiliser to the soil underneath the planted seed and a side dressing about 1 month after all plants emerge through the soil will greatly improve your yield. You will require about 500 grams of fertiliser for every 6 metres of row planted. On average 1 kilogram of seed will occupy about 6 metres.

Planting

The best time to plant potatoes is 2-3 weeks before the last frost usually occurs in your area. Once your soil is prepared and the seed has shoots of about 1cm long you are ready to plant. Your certified seed should be no larger than 250 grams. Tubers up to 60 grams are best planted whole. Larger seed may be planted whole or cut into two, three or four sets with a thin, sharp knife. Allow the cut surface to dry for a couple of days before planting.

Dig a furrow about 10cms deep in your prepared bed. Furrows should be 80cms apart. Sprinkle your fertiliser along the furrows and cover with 2-3cms of soil then place seed with the shoots pointing up, in the furrow. Place your seed 30cms apart. Push the soil in from both sides of the furrow to cover your seed and form a slight ridge over the seed.

Caring for your crop

Three to four weeks after planting, depending on the time of the year, your crop will start to emerge through the soil. Hill up your rows several times until after the potatoes have flowered to stop the greening of tubers and also protect them from potato moth.

Potatoes grow best when the soil is kept moist but not wet. Dry soil conditions when the plants start to produce tubers (3-6 weeks after emergence) may encourage common scab. If the soil is too wet powdery scab may develop, so be careful not to over water. Fluctuating soil moisture conditions produce poorly shaped or knobby tubers.

Harvesting and Storage

Your potatoes will be ready for eating when the lower leaves on the plants start to turn yellow. You can dig only what you need and to leave the other plants to grow on, but if you want to stop your potatoes from getting too big you may cut the tops off. If you want to dig and store your potatoes allow 2-3 weeks after the tops have been cut, for the skins to set, before digging.

Place your potatoes in a hessian bag or a cardboard box and store them in a cool, dark place with good ventilation. Cover the bag or box to exclude as much light as possible.



For more information contact:

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