



## Grow Your Own Potatoes

In March, we invite children from schools in and around Peterborough to join us at our [Grow Your Own Potatoes](#) day. Together, we plant potato tubers for children to take back to school and nurture. In June, the children come back and we harvest our crop to see who has the biggest yield.



**Growing potatoes is really easy so we thought we'd share our tips with you!**

**Space** - Potatoes need lots of room to grow so always pick a large pot or tub

**Light** - Make sure your pot or tub is placed in the light so it can grow

**Temperature** - Not too hot, not too cold! The perfect temperature for growing potatoes is 10 to 15 °C. Potato plants don't like frost so be sure to bring your pot or tub indoors if the temperature dips. If you're unable to do so, cover your plant so it has some protection.

**Food** - Potatoes get their nutrients from the soil. A good compost usually has everything your potato plant needs but you can buy extra plant food if needed

**Water** - Potatoes like water but be careful, too much water and they'll go mouldy! Water every 3 to 4 days and ensure the soil is damp

## Step 1 - Chitting your potato seed

To begin, you will need to chit a seed potato. Chitting potatoes means helping it to sprout. You'll know your potato is ready for planting when the sprouts are roughly 2cm long

## Step 2 - Planting your chitted potatoes

We plant our potatoes in early March. We do this by :

- Filling our pots half-way with compost.
- Place our chitted seed potato in the centre of the pot with the chits facing upwards
- Cover the seed potato with soil and lightly water it

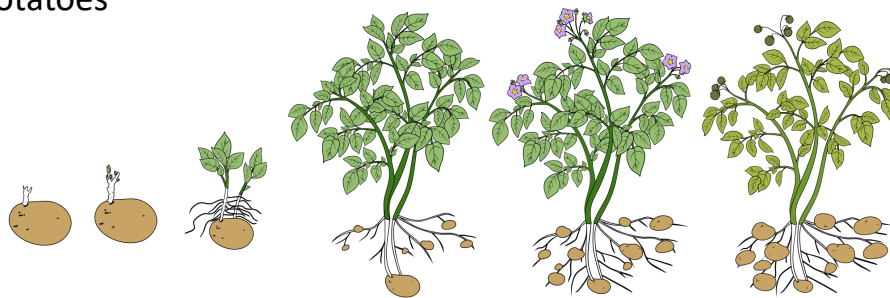
**Top tip - Keep it covered! After a few weeks, you'll notice shoots coming out of the soil. Now is the time to add more soil to your pot. Keep doing this every few weeks until your pot is full!**

## Step 3 - Harvesting your potatoes

Your potatoes should be ready for harvesting after 2.5 to 4 months. [We harvest our potatoes in June.](#)

To harvest your potatoes:

- Remove/cut the green tops from your pot
- Gently pull the plant out of your tub
- Discard the tuber (seed potato) and look through the soil and roots to find your potatoes



Remember to check our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) page to see how our plants are growing and don't forget to send us photo updates from your garden!