



GLENS of
ANTRIM
POTATOES

Let's Grow Some Lumpers

Before we start you need to check that you have the following equipment:

- Lumper Seed Potatoes
- Grow Bag
- Soil/Compost
- Fertiliser and Fungicide
- If chitting the seed potatoes, an empty egg cart or tray

Chitting- To allow the seed potatoes to sprout before planting.

You can start to chit the seed potatoes from in February, about 6 weeks before you intend to plant; however, the seed potatoes can be planted without this stage.

Step 1

Place the seed potatoes in a tray or old egg box in a place with plenty of natural light. Potato eyes are small sprouts which started to grow, usually at one end of a potato. Keep the eyes of the potato upwards in the tray.

Step 2

The potatoes are ready to plant once the sprouts reach 1.5cm – 2.5cm in length.

Step 3

To help prevent the seed potatoes from rotting, allow them to dry out before planting. Place the potatoes on a sheet of newspaper to dry.

Planting the Potatoes in a Grow Bag

Step 1

Place the Potato Grow Bag in the desired location for planting. It is recommended to place the grow bag in a location which receives at least six hours of sunlight each day. Planting typically takes place in early April but can also be planted in May.

Step 2

Fill the grow bag to a depth of 6 inches with soil/compost. You can also add in a little fertiliser to the soil at this stage. The main nutrients required for growing potatoes are Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P) and Potassium (K). Your local garden centre should be able to provide you with a suitable N-P-K fertiliser product. Always follow the label instructions.

Step 3

Once you have filled the grow bag with your soil mix, place 1– 5 potatoes, depending on the size of the grow bag, on top of the soil with the eyes pointing upwards. Lightly push them into the soil to ensure they are in place. Space them equally apart.

Step 4

Gently cover the seed potatoes with an additional 5 inches of soil mix.

Step 5

Water the potato grow bag with an ample amount of water to ensure the water reaches the bottom of the bag. Be sure to water the potatoes regularly to prevent them from drying out.

Step 6

If you plan to keep your potato plants outside you must protect it against potato blight by using a fungicide. Blight is caused by fungal spores which travel through the air and land on the potato foliage leaves. By the time symptoms of black lesions appear it may be too late to stop your plant from dying so a protective fungicide must be applied. The fungicide would need to be applied as soon as the plant has reached rosette stage (about the size of a small lettuce). This should be repeated every 10 days until the tubers are ready for harvest. Your local garden centre should be able to provide a suitable fungicide product for blight, always follow the label instructions.

Step 7

Gently top up the soil mix if need be as the potatoes begin to grow. Keep an eye for pests to prevent potato damage and rotting.

Step 8

As the potatoes begin to grow, the plant will flower. Harvesting can begin from late August to October.