

Growing a Potato in a bag for the Summer Show on Saturday August 3rd 2019

Class 26 The heaviest root of potatoes wins. Purchase the bag and chitted potato £1 at the meeting on Thursday 28th March.

If you miss this contact Yvonne 01403 711598 yvonneneuman@hotmail.co.uk

Planting the Potato

- 1/3 fill the bag with multipurpose compost (*a standard Grow Bag will easily contain enough compost to do one bag with some spare*)
- 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 the bag up with multi-purpose compost (*no additional fertiliser need be added to the 'top up' compost*)

Placing the Bag

- Dig a hole (*or trench if more than one bag*) four inches deep and twelve inches wide
- 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*)
- It is a good idea to support the haulms to keep them growing upwards (*this helps the potato grow and keeps the area around the root clear of leaf debris and slugs*)

Bringing the Bag to the Show

- Cut the haulms off about an inch from the surface, carefully lift the bag out of the trench wipe the bag clean and bring the whole thing to the show.
- The show organisers will tip the potatoes out and weigh them.

Good Luck!