

POTATOES – A QUICK GUIDE TO TYPES for 2027

FIRST EARLIES – plant late Feb/early March (with frost protection)
grow rapidly in 10-12 weeks
produce moderate crops of small (new) potatoes in June or July before potato blight can take hold.

SECOND EARLIES – plant about a month later, late March/April
ready in 14-16 weeks, can be lifted in July or August
produce larger harvests

MAINCROP – plant in April, ready in 16-22 weeks, take the longest to grow
need the most room to grow
produce the largest potatoes and yield
ready in August for immediate consumption, or can be left until September or October before they are lifted for winter storage
store well in cool dark places
the most susceptible to potato blight

POTATO VARIETY DESCRIPTION SHEET for 2027

FIRST EARLIES	
FOREMOST	Old favourite. White fleshed, waxy tubers with excellent flavour. Ideal for eating straight out of the ground, steamed or boiled.
RED DUKE OF YORK	Deep red floury potato. Vigorous. Excellent for mashing and roasting. Wonderful flavour. Violet flowers.
ROCKET	Heavy crops of round white waxy tubers. Perfect for boiling, salads and chipping. Red/violet flowers.
SECOND EARLIES	
CHARLOTTE	SALAD POTATO Light yellow long oval waxy tuber. High yielding waxy flavoursome. Ideal for boiling whole, good for salads.. Red/violet flowers.
KESTREL	Striking blue eyes. Great all-rounder especially for boiling, baking or roasting. Good disease resistance. Blue/violet flowers.
MAINCROP	
Cara	Extremely high yielding robust potato, good for baking and chipping. Copes well in drought. Excellent resistance to diseases, including blight. White flowers.
Desiree	Red-skinned potatoes with a fairly waxy texture that works well as an all-rounder. Their creamy yellow flesh makes a good mash. High resistance to drought. Pink/white flowers.
King Edward	Oval, white potato with pink coloration. Good all-purpose, excellent flavour. Creamy and floury. Disease resistance. Red/violet flower.
Maris Piper	Oval cream tubers. Good yield and flavour. Stores well. Most widely grown in the UK. Great roasted, mashed, boiled, chipped or baked, despite being dry and floury. Red/violet flower.
Picasso	Oval white tubers with pink eyes and cream to light yellow flesh. Massive yields, good keeper, mild taste. Pink flowers. Good disease and drought resistance.
Sarpo Mira	Oval pink skinned tuber. Good all-rounder with high yields of floury tasty tubers. Good flavour. Excellent resistance to blight. Stores well. White/pink flowers.