

**WILLIAM SHEARER**



Estd.

1857

**SEED POTATOES**

**FOR SEASON  
2018**

71 Victoria Street, Kirkwall  
Orkney KW15 1DQ

Tel. (01856) 873189 Fax. (01856) 870892

E-mail: [info@williamshearer.co.uk](mailto:info@williamshearer.co.uk)

[www.williamshearer.co.uk](http://www.williamshearer.co.uk)

*There can be nothing finer than the taste of  
The new season's tatties, their outer garments retained,  
Boiled in sea water and buttered to taste.....*

*An Orcadian.*

# **Introduction**

Welcome to our Seed Potato List for 2018.

Firstly, a big thank you to those of you who came along to our Tattie Event during the Science Festival in September. With the kind assistance of Marion Tait, we had great fun reviving Pomona Crisps for the day, learning how to make chocolate brownies from potatoes and proving you really can enjoy tatties boiled in (Scapa) sea water.

2017 was also the year we launched our tattie Bible. Compiled by food writer Liz Ashworth, this indispensable little recipe book is a must for all tattie enthusiasts and a great gift idea for Christmas.

As always, we will have a great selection of eating potatoes on offer over festive season - Golden Wonder, Shetland Black, Red Emmalie Violetta, Setanta, Records, Sharpes Express, Arran Victory and Yukon Gold.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your custom and trust you will find something to your taste.

*William Shearer*

---

## **First Earlies**

### **Arran Pilot**

Arran Pilot have been around since 1930 and often referred to as the nation's favourite garden-grown variety. Produces a good yield of good sized tubers with shallow eyes. Flesh is of a firm waxy texture and ideal for jacket potatoes. Susceptible to blight so early lifting is advisable.

### **Casablanca**

Casablanca has a smooth white skin and shallow eyes, which will be of interest to exhibitors while it's cooking ability to chip, bake or boil will make it a chef's dream. Trials have found a good resistance to splitting, virus leaf roll, blackleg and blight.

### **Colleen - Organic**

A round oval high yielding multi-purpose variety. Flesh is light yellow and of a fairly dry texture. Has good resistance to disease and foliar blight. Popular choice.

### **Duke of York**

A much favoured old variety, especially in Scotland. Dry mealy texture with a firm pale yellow flesh and pronounced flavour. First introduced in 1891, still an Orcadian favourite

### **Dunluce**

An oval white skinned variety with a firm waxy texture, cream flesh and shallow eyes. Dunluce is ideal for forcing and recommended for the poly tunnel. Excellent for boiling and salads, although susceptible to blight.

### **Lady ChristL**

An extra early variety, Lady ChristL produces bumper yields and has an excellent flavour. Skin is very smooth and bright, making this variety popular for exhibition. Ideal for greenhouse forcing and salads.

### **Premiere**

Firm, dry, light yellow fleshed potato with none of the waxiness associated with some first earlies. Good flavour and disease resistance. Popular choice.

### **Red Duke of York**

A red skinned variant of Duke of York. First appeared in 1942. Slightly earlier than Duke of York.

### **Swift**

Extra early Caithness bred variety. Produces good crops in as little as 7 to 8 weeks. Tubers are round oval with a waxy white flesh. Ideal for forcing.

## **Second Earlies**

### **British Queen**

An oval white variety which first appeared in 1894. A dry mealy variety with excellent old fashioned potato taste. Susceptible to blight.

### **Catriona**

This variety first appeared in 1920 and has a distinctive purple splash around the eyes. The flesh is pale yellow with a good strong flavour.

### **Charlotte**

French bred variety and first introduced in 1981 for the early salad potato market. It has a pear shape with a tender creamy yellow flesh which remains firm. Delicious hot or cold.

### **Kestrel**

Smooth skinned oval variety with attractive violet eyes. A creamy, fleshed, fairly dry textured potato with a pleasant flavour.

### **Orla**

This recent introduction is an oval to long oval variety producing medium to large tubers. It has a good skin finish with shallow eyes and a light yellow flesh. Orla has an excellent resistance to tuber and foliar blight.

### **Sharpes Express**

Another old favourite introduced ten years after the Duke of York. Pear shaped with a white flesh and smooth skin. An excellent variety but susceptible to disease. First introduced in 1901.

### **Wilja**

A high yielding Dutch bred variety which first appeared in 1972. It has good culinary qualities including chips and baking. Moderately firm slightly dry texture with a good resistance to blight.

### **Yukon Gold**

This round part-coloured variety first appeared in 1980. It has shallow eyes, yellow flesh with a moderately dry texture. Yukon Gold is great for early season baking and chips. Has good resistance to cooking discolouration with some resistance to blight, drought, common scab, skin spot and blackleg.

## **Main Crop**

### **Amour**

Much favoured by exhibitors, Amour produces outstanding uniformity of size and colour. Tubers are round to oval with shallow red-pink eyes over a pure white skin. The waxy cream flesh of this early main crop makes it ideal for general purpose use in the kitchen. Good resistance to eelworm.

### **Blue Belle**

This early main crop can produce a large yield of tasty tubers that are full of colour around the eyes. They are becoming popular on the show bench and in the kitchen. You will find them excellent for boiling, baking and mashing.

### **Cara**

Smooth skinned variety with pink shallow eyes. Cara has a floury white flesh and recommended for baking. Excellent cropper with a good resistance to blight.

### **Desiree**

A long red skinned variety maturing as an early main crop. Produces a high yield of good sized tubers which are of a waxy texture. An excellent variety for boiling and baking which rarely discolours after cooking. Has a good resistance to drought, gangrene, dry rot, powdery scab and bruising.

### **Infinity**

This variety from Irish Potato Marketing is bred from Lady Rosetta and Rooster. Infinity is a high yielding, early bulking maincrop with high dry matter. Tubers are deep red skinned, cream fleshed, uniform oval shape with shallow eyes and store well. Excellent blight resistance. If you prefer a dry potato, this is the one you.

### **Kerrs Pink**

A floury potato with soft creamy white flesh and excellent flavour. Very popular in Ireland and with Shetlanders, despite its deep eyes.

### **King Edward**

This well known variety first appeared in 1902. It has an oval to kidney shape and is partly red, mostly at the crown end. The cream white floury flesh rarely discolours on cooking.

### **Maris Piper**

A good all round table potato with a dry floury creamy flesh. Good flavour and rarely discolours after cooking. Much favoured by chippers.

### **Mayan Gold (New for 2018)**

Originally from the Peruvian Andes, Mayan Gold are the first potatoes in the UK from the Phureja potatoes of Peru. The tubers are long oval with a deep golden flesh and creamy texture. Great for chips and roast potatoes. Mayan Gold cook in a third less time than standard varieties and are best cooked in their skins, as they tend to disintegrate when boiled. Roast, chip or steam for mash.

### **Picasso**

An attractive round, oval variety with pink shallow eyes. Tubers are uniform producing a very high yield. Flesh is cream and of a firm texture. Excellent all round variety for boiling, baking and roasting. Ideal for exhibition. Bred from Cara.

### **Record**

Another Dutch bred variety which was first marketed in 1925. Although it has lost some of its popularity, it is still widely grown and retains a good disease resistance. A mealy yellow fleshed variety, ideal for chipping.

### **Red Emmalie**

This new variety first appeared in 2012. It has a red skin and red flesh and matures as an early main crop. Tubers are long in shape and have some resistance to bruising and splitting. Try them boiled, mashed or as wedges.

### **Robinta**

A short oval red skinned variety with shallow eyes. Flesh is white and of high dry matter. Good resistance to most diseases including foliar blight.

### **Setanta**

First introduced commercially to Orkney by ourselves, this red skinned variant of Rooster has a higher dry matter content. It has an extremely high resistance to foliar blight, gangrene and dry rot. Setanta stores well and its eating quality is excellent. Simply the best all round variety available. Recommended.

### **Violetta**

This European variety has a smooth blue skin and blue flesh. Tubers are long in shape with a high resistance to rot. Ideal for salads or you can try them boiled, steamed or roasted.

## **Late Main Crop**

### **Golden Wonder**

This old favourite from 1906 has a very dry mealy texture with a very pronounced flavour. It requires a long growing season and early boxing is recommended. Careful boiling is necessary to avoid disintegration and best cooked in their skins.

### **Sarpo Mira - Organic**

This variety created quite an interest when first introduced in 2008 with a great deal of positive feedback after lifting. However, to improve eating quality and get the best from this variety, it is recommended to remove the foliage once the tubers have matured to the desired size and leave for a short time before lifting. One hundred percent blight resistant.

## **Speciality and Heritage Collection**

We are pleased to offer these old favourites from times past. These rare varieties are grown in Scotland under organic conditions and sold as small ware.

## **Second Early**

### **Shetland Black**

This oval variety from our northerly neighbours has a distinctive inky blue/black skin. Flesh is yellow with a ring of purple just under the skin. Exceptionally fine flavour and very nutritious. Best cooked in their skins or steamed to avoid disintegration.

## **Late Main Crops**

### **Pink Fir Apple**

One of the oldest varieties still in commercial culture (c. 1850). The long pink tubers have a tendency to poke out of the side of the drills and late season hoeing up may be necessary. It retains its new potato taste throughout the season. Best cooked in their skins. Prone to blight.

## **Taster Packs**

We are pleased to introduce these taster packs for you to try alongside your old favourites. Contents vary from 8 to 10 tubers per pack.

### **Rocket - First Early**

Produces very early firm waxy tubers. Particularly suited to growing under polythene or in poly tunnels for the earliest crops.

### **Constance - Second Early**

Yellow skinned, pale yellow fleshed table potato suitable for general use. Constance produces good size tubers that are resistant to cracks. Medium dry matter variety which retains its colour after peeling. It has a buttery taste and smooth texture making it ideal for bake, boil or mash.

### **Rudolph - Main Crop**

Inside the deep red skin of Rudolph is a delicious white flesh with a creamy texture. Ideal for baking and jacket potatoes that are light and fluffy inside.

### **Inca Bella - Main Crop**

This variety is an offspring of Mayan Gold cooking in a third less time than standard varieties. It is known for its great flavour, distinctive colour and unique cooking qualities. Delicious roasted or baked.

## Varieties resistant to eelworm

<u>Early</u>	<u>Second Early</u>	<u>Main Crop</u>
Casablanca	Kestrel	Amour
Premiere	Saxon	Cara
Swift		Harmony
Rocket		Maris Piper

## Varieties also known as -

Duke of York	also known as	Midlothian Early
Red Duke of York	also known as	Rode Eersteling
Sharpe's Express	also known as	White Heather
Shetland Black	also known as	Black Kidney
Kepplestone Kidney	also known as	Ramshorn or Cowshorn

## Varieties with medium to high resistance to blight

<u>Early</u>	<u>Second Early</u>	<u>Main Crop</u>	<u>Late</u> <u>Main Crop</u>
Casablanca	Kestrel	Cara	Sarpo Mira
Colleen	Orla	Infinity	
Premiere	Wilja	Picasso	
Swift		Record	
		Robinta	
		Setanta	

## Salad Varieties

Charlotte, Pink Fir Apple, Lady ChristL, Dunluce.

## Recommended for baking

Cara, Harmony, Dunluce, Pippa.

## Exhibition

Blue Belle	Kestrel	
Casablanca	Swift	Robinta
Nadine		
Picasso		

---

## Potatoes from Tubers

On receipt of your tubers, place them with the 'rose end' (shoot buds) uppermost, in trays in a frost-free, light position, to encourage the formation of sturdy shoots, which won't be too spindly, over the next few weeks. An egg tray is ideal.

Planting can be carried out from late March onwards, but earlier plantings are at greatest risk from damage by frost, as the young, tender shoots emerge. Space the tubers around 30cm (a foot) apart, slightly further for the main crop types. Distance between the rows is 60-80cm and planting depth about 10-15cm.

Potatoes will tolerate a wide range of soil types; to reduce the risk of disease build-up, it is best to rotate the crop on at least a three-year cycle. Soil with a good organic content, and a sunny aspect, is best.

If the emerging shoots are threatened by frost, draw soil over them, or protect with straw or fleece. Earth up at around 25cm high, by drawing soil up around the stems. As the crop develops, water generously in dry weather, to ensure a good crop, and to stop tubers going soft during development.

Harvesting times are: July for earlies (as the flowers open)  
August for second earlies  
September for main crops (as the tops die off and wither)

Storage of the main crop varieties, allow the skins to dry for a few hours before sacking them up, otherwise they're more likely to rot during storage.

We always carry a stock of second-hand jute sacks. Ideal for storing your potato crop.

*Information provided for guidance only, as cultural and climatic circumstances vary.*

## **Loose Onion Sets**

Choose a sunny, well drained site. It's possible to grow onions on heavy soil, but drainage should be improved prior to planting or, try raised beds. Onions, garlic and shallots prefer fertile soil, but don't require much nitrogen, so avoid using freshly manured soil. Instead prepare your planting area well in advance of the planting season.

Plant 3" to 4" apart, leaving a hoe width between rows. Cover sets so the necks are just protruding above the soil.

### **Alpha**

Alpha is the earliest ripening brown onion supplied in spring that is ready for harvesting at least 4 weeks before any other variety. Heat treated, Alpha can be planted in late February, if conditions allow, without fear of bolting. Alternatively, sets can be potted up into small pots for transplanting later.

### **Red Baron**

An excellent, very dark red coloured flat-round onion with rings right to the centre, best planted late. Ideal for salads.

### **Sturon**

An RHS Award of Garden Merit variety producing good sized semi-round bulbs, which store well. Our best seller.

### **Turbo**

Compared to Sturon, Turbo has the ability to keep longer and produce high yields.

### **Centurion F1**

An impressive large hybrid variety producing a heavy early crop of uniformly globe-shaped bulbs, with even skin colour. Excellent for eating or the show bench.

---

## **Loose Shallots**

Plant shallots in rows in any firm, well drained soil in full sun. Prepare the planting area several weeks in advance by forking in some well rotted garden compost to improve fertility and drainage. Avoid planting shallots in freshly manured ground. On particularly wet land, try planting in raised beds. Plant the bulbs so that the tip of the bulb is just protruding above the soil surface. Leave a space of 7" between each bulb and 12" between rows.

### **Golden Gourmet**

Golden Gourmet can be planted in very early spring. It has a mild flavour which makes it ideal for salads and pickling. A firm favourite.

### **Red Sun**

An attractive red tinged skin variety, producing good yields of crisp, white fleshed bulbs of excellent flavour for cooking or salads. Bulbs show good storage potential.

## **Potato & General Fertilisers from Bulk and Pre-pack**

### **Main Crop (12-22-22)**

This product is suitable for all potato varieties as well as grass and general garden use. Sold from bulk.

### **Poultry Manure**

Available in 7kg tubs.

### **Rock Dust (Organic)**

Rockdust is 420 million years old, freshly ground, untreated, volcanic rock blended from various Scottish quarries. Whilst chemical fertilisers may produce more immediate results, when you add Rockdust you are adding a huge range of minerals and trace elements for long term soil health. Available in 4kg tubs and 20kg bags.

### **Vitax Organic Potato Fertiliser**

A balanced organic fertiliser for sustained growth of potato tubers. Ideal for potato planters and barrels

---

## **Sundries**

### **Potato / Vegetable Planting Bag**

Ideal for your garden, patio or balcony. Includes carry handles and drainage holes.

### **Hessian Sacks**

Quantity of new and second hand 25kg sacks always in stock

### **Blight Guard - (New for 2018)**

A brand new produce developed for the prevention of foliar blight in potatoes and tomatoes.

---

## **Clover Compost**

Clover is a consistent high quality nutrient enriched 100% peat compost, with wetting agent to ensure easy watering. Use for all your seed sowing, potting, containers and hanging baskets.

Clover Compost contains no recycled or waste materials and is harvested from carefully managed peat reserves, which are not designated sites of scientific or scenic interest.

**MULTI PURPOSE** - available in 20ltr, 40ltr, 75ltr and 100ltr bags.

**MOTHER EARTH** - A budget, multi purpose compost containing all essential nutrients and wetting agents. Suitable for a wide range of plants. Available in 50ltr bags.

Also 4 Plant Growbags and Bark Chips.

Visit our  
**Garden Store**

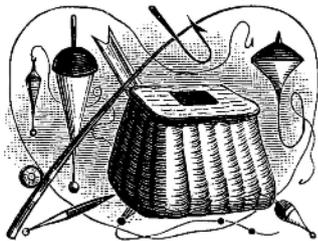


*Large selection of  
Johnson & Country Value Flower & Vegetable Seeds,  
Compost, Seed Trays, Onion Sets etc.*

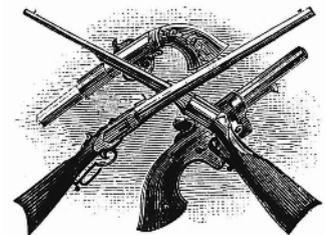
*Fertilisers, Plant Foods, Pesticides, Weedkiller.*

*Grass Seeds for lawn etc.*

*Choose from a wide range of garden tools.  
Forks, Spades, Rakes, Trowels etc.*



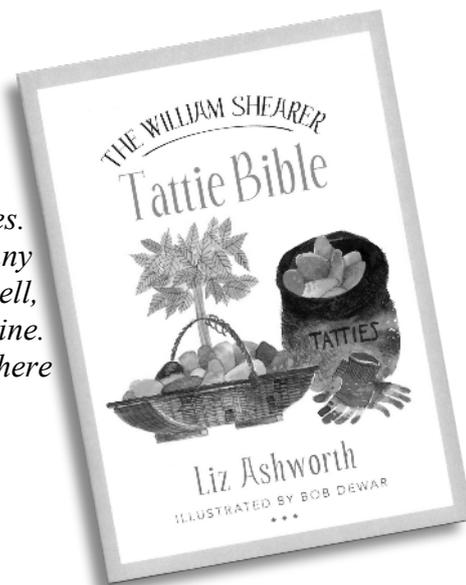
**Have a browse around our  
Fishing  
and  
Shooting Department**



**The Tattie Bible**

*An imaginative selection of over 50 recipes.  
From Tattie scones, Vichyssoise and Granny  
Mac's fish cakes to Raspberry tattie bakewell,  
Chocolate potato fudge brownies and tattie wine.  
The William Shearer Tattie Bible proves that there  
are many different ways to cook that potato.*

Only £4.99  
or £5.99 including postage.



**WILLIAM SHEARER**

71 Victoria Street, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1DQ  
Tel. (01856) 873189 Fax. (01856) 870892

E-mail: [info@williamshearer.co.uk](mailto:info@williamshearer.co.uk)

[www.williamshearer.co.uk](http://www.williamshearer.co.uk)

*Our third century of trading.  
Still growing strong.*

# WILLIAM SHEARER



71 Victoria Street, Kirkwall  
Orkney KW15 1DQ

Tel. (01856) 873189      Fax. (01856) 870892

E-mail: [info@williamshearer.co.uk](mailto:info@williamshearer.co.uk)

[www.williamshearer.co.uk](http://www.williamshearer.co.uk)

**Opening Hours:**  
Monday - Saturday  
9.00a.m. - 5.30p.m.