

WILLIAM SHEARER



Estd.

1857

SEED POTATOES

**FOR SEASON
2024**

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*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 selection for 2024.

We trust you had a fruitful year in the garden and that you are still enjoying your potato harvest. The cold start to 2023 and the snow in early March did little to encourage gardeners. However, with the increasing number of polycrubs in the County, early planting is not the weather related task it used to be. It also proved an excellent summer for outdoor tattie crops, with plenty of sunshine to boost crops.

As well as the usual favourites, we are pleased to introduce a number of new varieties to our list.

We will also have a selection of tatties for you to try over the festive season and beyond. Try the *Ultimate Roasters* this Christmas from local suppliers Farewell Farms, South Ronaldsay.

William Shearer

First Earlies

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.

Caledonian Pearl - New for 2024

Caledonian Pearl is a new, high yielding variety that are hardy and easy to grow. Yellow skinned with a waxy flesh, the tubers set quickly for early harvesting. Caledonian Pearl have a great flavour and can also be steamed or boiled. This variety is perfect for kitchen gardens, small spaces and for growing in bags

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.

Home Guard

This old variety and old favourite from 1942, is making a return to our list. Creamy white flesh with a moderately firm textured and slightly mealy flesh.

Lady Christl

An extra early variety, Lady Christl produces bumper crops of excellent flavour. Skin is very smooth and bright, making this variety popular for exhibition and salads. Ideal for greenhouse and polycrub forcing.

Premiere

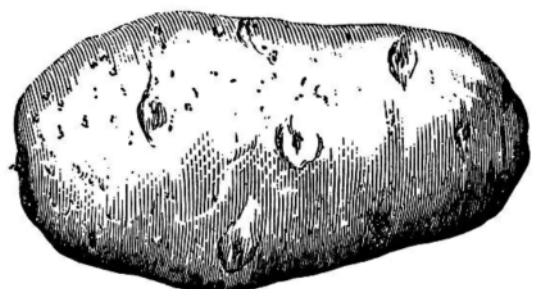
Firm, dry, light yellow fleshed potato with none of the waxiness associated with some first earlies. Good flavour and disease resistance. Popular choice.

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.

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.

Sagitta

A round golden skinned variety with shallow eyes, popular with the chip shop trade due to its high dry matter and fluffy texture. Great for roasting and mash and can be boiled well too. Recommended.

Saxon

A high yielding, early bulking second early with a good flavour. Saxon produces A good yield of even sized long oval tubers with shallow eyes. Flesh is pale yellow and of a semi-floury texture. Excellent for baking and chipping.

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.

Sarpo Una

Different to the rest of the Sarpo family, Una is classed as a second early. Una can be ready as early as end of June or left to harvest late for great bakers. This delicately flavoured variety has a waxy texture which works well for eating hot or cold. The pink tubers also store well. Ideal for pots and grow bags.

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.

Main Crop

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.

Java

Java is an ideal variety for gardens and allotments due to its consistently high-yields and excellent fungal, bacterial, virus and pest resistance. The tubers are round oval with a red skin and waxy flesh which doesn't fall apart when boiled.

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.



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.

Sarpo Axona - Organic

This "sister" to Sarpo Mira was bred in Hungary by Dr Sarvari. The name "Sarpo" is an abbreviation of "Sarvari" and "Potato". The consensus is that both are highly resistant to blight and that Axona has the best flavour of the two. Recommended.

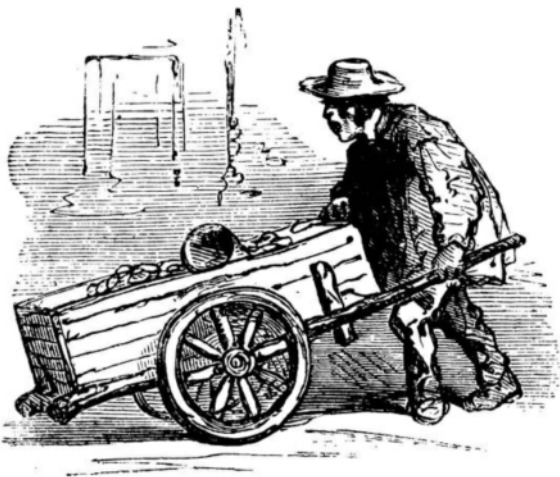
Setanta

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.

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.



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.

Main Crop

Arran Victory

First appeared in 1918 and named to celebrate the end of the Great War. Oval shape with blue toned skin. A very floury textured variety which is best simmered gently for an exceptionally flavoured fluffy mash.

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.

Blue Annelise

This main crop variety as its name suggests, has a blue skin with a creamy.

Carolus

Part coloured oval main crop variety with excellent blight resistance. Boil, mash or roast.

Sally

An early second early that produces oval tubers of good taste and high disease resistance.



Varieties resistant to eelworm

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

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>
Casablanca	Kestrel	Cara
Colleen	Orla	Picasso
Premiere	Vitabella	Record
Swift	Wilja	Robinta
		Sarpo Axona

Salad Varieties

Charlotte, Pink Fir Apple, Rocket, Caledonian Pearl, Sarpo Una.

Recommended for baking

Cara, Blue Belle, Picasso, Golden Wonder, Sarpo Una, Saxon.

Exhibition

Casablanca	Kestrel	Rocket
Picasso	Swift	Robinta
	Blue Belle	

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.

Pink Panther - New for 2024

A favourite French onion producing lovely rose coloured onions that taste exceptional too. Its flesh has a mild, sweet flavour when cooked and a slight sharpness if enjoyed raw in salads.

Jetset F1 - New for 2024

This is an oval round variety which produces high yields of bold, uniform onions which have a strong flavour. Jetset have a high inert matter ensuring the onions have excellent keeping qualities after harvesting. The mature bulbs are ready to lift from late July and are multi-purpose.

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

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 bags and 100ltr bales.

MOTHER EARTH - A budget, multi purpose compost containing all essential nutrients and wetting agents. Suitable for a wide range of plants. Available in 60ltr bags.

Also 4 Plant Growbags and Bark Chips.

Visit our Garden Store

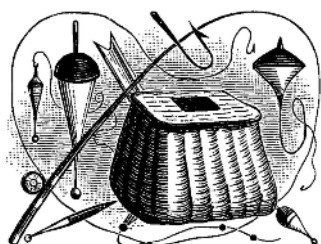


*Large selection of
Johnson & Country Value Flower & Vegetable Seeds,
Compost, Seed Trays, Onion Sets etc.*

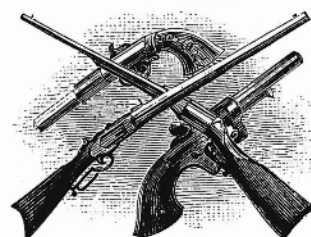
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Grass Seeds for lawn etc.

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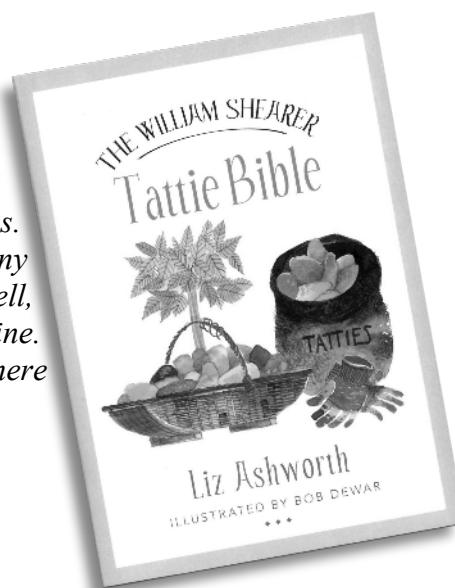
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Fishing
and
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