

# Potato Chitting



Potato Chitting is a method used to give your potato crop a head start by growing the shoots before planting them. Early crops can be chitted approx 6 weeks before you intend to plant them. This will result in an earlier and plentiful harvest and less likely to become diseased due to the strength of the shoots.

To start chitting your potatoes, we recommend late January to mid February depending on your location; the cooler the later.

To chit potatoes you will need an early crop batch of potato seeds and containers; egg boxes are ideal for this exercise.

Potatoes have one end with 'eyes' where the shoots start from. Place the seed in the egg box with the eyes facing upwards (at the top). You won't need the lid of the egg box. Label each tray with the variety of potato you're chitting.

Store the potato seeds in a light, cool place indoors and store for approx 4-6 weeks until they have shoots about 2cm long. They must be chitted inside or protected against frost, which will damage the shoots.