

New Potatoes for Christmas

That's it folks, time to start thinking about your **Christmas lunch**.

Why not grow a pot or two of new potatoes for Christmas meals.

YOU CAN DO IT!

This is a link to the RHS for tips re potato varieties etc

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/vegetables/potatoes/growing-for-festive-season>



Three pots yielded these beauties, Christmas 2020, just before my bowel cancer operation!

The following photographs show how I grow potatoes in pots. More tips as the season progresses.

START PLANNING YOUR CROP NOW!



40cm Clever pot. (That's a 16 inch pot to me!) The drainage holes are raised in order to provide a water reservoir. Pity about the open rim underneath, snails love spaces like this! [Watch out for my SNAIL BLOG](#)



Capillary matting placed over the holes and covered with sandstone/flint, lime free gravel (do NOT lime potatoes) to provide a water-root friendly, moist space. My version of the old fashion Ring Culture! Ah, the "Good Old Days"



A flap of the capillary matting over the gravel/held down by gravel. This will link the water in the reservoir to the growing compost. [More about this onure blog about WATERING](#)



A few inches, of a peat free compost below the potatoes. *I dread to think how much peat I have used over the years as a Commercial Grower. I am now a convert to peat free gardening, so watch out.*
Poacher turned gamekeeper!



Three potatoes is about right for this sized pot for "New" potatoes. For Maincrop potatoes I only grow one tuber per pot. *More about this next spring.*



Covered with 2-3 inches of compost, leaving room for earthing up. The vegetation on the top is just a bit of green/brown I pulled off the dying back Daffodils. It will rot down. No need to bin it! Eventually, I will have a **COMPOSTING BLOG.**



Ready to earth up.



Earthing up with peat free compost



An inch or so, that's 2.3 cm, space left for watering.

If you are impatient and cannot wait to plant your Christmas treat, it's not too late.
Well, certainly not down in beautiful, mild, Pembrokeshire

Go on

**Try it, it's just another
Little Bit of Gardening**



Note the fillis string, pulled from the CENTRE of the reel, which is kept in a polythene bag. (Or a container with a hole in the lid). Yes, I know. I should have put the twigs in weeks ago, now I may be damaging a few potatoes



Pot placed on my watering tray while still light enough to lift. Sufficient water applied to drain out of the pot (about 5 litres, or a gallon or so that's 5Kg or over 10lb or so) and into the tray so that the excess is not wasted. By flooding the pot, the water in both the old and new compost is "Linked" to help future capillary action.

Further along the tray are a few pots in need of water, including Azalea indica (Christmas Azalea) standing out for the summer in a slightly shady spot. More on this Azalea in the Autumn.





The 'variety' ('cultivar' for you purists!),
'Golden Queen'. One of my favourites. I saved just three
from a bagful being sold off cheap at the greengrocer's in May. (Shop
local). We ate the rest, they mash beautifully.
The tubers were starting to sprout, but only just.
This was a good sign as so many maincrop potatoes are chemically
treated to retard sprouting during winter storage.

Note the flower pot on top of the cane to protect eyes.
Unfortunately, snails would love this spot!

Keep following the progress of **'Golden Queen'** over the next
few weeks

