

## Potato Day 2025 Varieties

\* = Organic, # = Black Isle / locally grown, (year introduced, parent x parent)

### First Earlies

#### **Accord**

General purpose, waxy, fast growing, high yielding, good for salad, grown on for baking, good resistance to scab

#### **Caledonian Pearl**

New, high yielding variety that are hardy and easy to grow. Yellow-skinned tubers that set quickly so that they can be harvested early and a waxy flesh that makes them perfect salad potatoes. With a delicious flavour, Caledonian Pearl can also be used for steaming and boiling and is very versatile; it can be grown in smaller outdoor spaces.

#### **Casablanca** \* (2009, 85G040-080 x Picasso)

The "new Maris Bard", white with shallow eyes, good for chipping, baking, boiling. Very early. Stores well. Impressive disease resistance.

#### **Colleen** \* (1993, Manna x Mizzen)

Good multipurpose potato, high yielding; waxy, yet mealy, pale yellow. Boils and fries well. Reasonable blight resistance.

#### **Duke of York (white)** (1891, Early Primrose x King Kidney)

Pale yellow quality potato, excellent flavour waxy- almost salad like, quickly matures if left in the ground and becomes more of a general purpose potato.

#### **Foremost** (1954, Katahdin x (Epicure x Pepo) )

A gardeners' favourite, round oval, easy scrubbing, tasty. More floury than most, good baker if allowed to grow. Excellent cooking characteristics.

#### **Lady Christl** (1996, WS 73-3-391 x Mansour)

A very good waxy salad potato, very early - a week or so later than Swift / Rocket. Susceptible to foliar blight, fairly good tuber blight resistance. Long oval shape, white skin, yellow flesh. Doesn't like exposed conditions.

#### **Maris Bard** \* (1972, Y15 139 x Ulster Prince)

Early high yielding, oval, waxy, white. Traditional earthy taste, good new potato, more general purpose if left to mature.

#### **Orla** \* (1998, O.P. 657/3 x Spunta)

Early or early main crop. Good early yield if chitted. Currently the most blight resistant first early. Can be used as a decent early new potato or grown on as a maincrop when it becomes more general purpose. Stores well, long dormancy. Oval, white.

#### **Pentland Javelin** (1968, Craigs Royal x 2356(11) x USDA 41956 x Austr. Seedling)

White, oval, good flavoured new potato. Tends to bulk up later than most first earlies. Show bench quality.

#### **Premiere** (1985)

High yielding oval to round shape, shallow eyes, all round disease resistance, yellow flesh and very tasty for bake, boil, chip roast or enjoy in salad.

#### **Red Duke of York**

Oval red skinned with moist yellow flesh, Floury. More vigorous than white Duke of York. Great flavour, large tubers, all round uses, starting with salad.

#### **Sharpe's Express** (1900)

Another tasty one that's on the floury side. Rated as poor blight resistance but some I've grown have had surprisingly good resistance. Somewhat irregular oval shape, white flesh. Does well locally.

#### **Swift** (1994, Stroma x 90-83)

Along with Rocket the earliest cropping potato available in the UK. Oval, cream flesh, bigger tubers than Rocket and can be used for baking, mashing and roasting if left to grow on a bit. Compact plants, good for growing under cloches or fleece. Good for growing in pots and under cover.

### Second Earlies

#### **Acoustic** \*

This potato has a high yield on both light sandy soil and on heavier clay soil. Acoustic is stress-resistant and resistant to extreme weather conditions. This variety produces round oval uniform tubers with a good skin and is great all-rounder in the kitchen. It can be harvested as a second-early when the texture is waxy and perfect for salads and boiling. However, it can be harvested later in the season when the texture changes to become more floury, perfect for chips, baking, mashing and wedges.

**British Queen** (1894, Patersons Victoria x Old Blue Don)

Excellent old fashioned floury, high dry matter potato but doesn't disintegrate when boiled gently. Recently awarded RHS Award of Garden Merit, good yields and flavour. Oval, white.

**Charlotte \*** (1981, Hansa x Danae)

Good flavour, high yielding, waxy, salad type. Very popular. Oval, yellow fleshed.

**Francis**

A versatile and reliable variety, producing smooth, uniform tubers with creamy, waxy flesh. Strong disease resistance, including blight, Francis provides excellent consistency in the garden. These potatoes are ideal for a variety of culinary uses such as boiling, roasting, and adding to salads, thanks to their delicious flavour and firm texture. With high yields and robust growth, good choice for all growers.

**Harry**

A reliable, high-yielding variety, known for their versatility in the kitchen. These potatoes produce uniform, medium-sized tubers with smooth skins and creamy white flesh, making them ideal for a wide range of dishes. Whether you're boiling, roasting, or mashing, Harry seed potatoes deliver excellent flavour and texture, making them a great all-rounder for home-grown produce.

**Jazzy**

Large quantity of small tubers, , waxy texture and good flavour cream skin, light yellow flesh. Great for salads, boiled and roasted.

**Kestrel** (1992, Solanum vernei x Cara)

Pretty, tasty, high yielding, general purpose but slightly on the waxy side. Good for most uses, even roasts OK, and very good baked. White with purple eyes, light yellow flesh.

**Maris Peer \*\***

Good yield of smallish potatoes, flavour - subtle and delicious. light skin, creamy firm flesh- doesn't disintegrate in cooking. boiling, steaming and roasting whole.

**Nadine**

Nadine seed potatoes are one of the most successful varieties, introduced around 1987 by famous potato breeder, Jack Dunnett. Nadine tubers are round in shape with a clean, white skin and cream coloured flesh. A high yielding seed potato variety, Nadine produces many tubers at the root and are a popular showbench variety.

**Nicola** (1973, Clivia x 6430 / 1011)

Produces large number of uniform, smooth oval potatoes good for boiling, salad. Good eelworm resistance.

**Paradox \***

High yielding variety which is resistant to many diseases, Paradox is suitable for boiling and makes great chips.

**Sally**

Versatile and dependable, producing medium to large tubers with smooth skin and creamy yellow flesh. Known for their strong resistance to blight, Sally offers consistency and resilience in the garden. Range of culinary uses, including boiling, mashing, and roasting, thanks to their excellent flavour and texture. High yields and solid disease resistance.

**Maincrop****Alouette \***

Red skin, yellow flesh, oval long tubers. Blight resistant, excellent flavour. Roast, bake, slow boil and chip.

**Bambino \*** (2005, Navan x Boxer)

Produces a large number of medium sized round oval, cream fleshed potatoes, good for new potato use. Good flavour, yield and general pest / disease resistance.

**Blue Annelise \***(2007, Barum, Germany)

Long shaped, blue skin and blue flesh tubers. Slightly creamy flavour with a nutty aroma. These are blue through and through looking wonderful in a colourful salad and also make lovely Jacket Potatoes, mash or roast ; keep skin on to cook to retain colour.

**Desiree** (1962, Urgenta x Depesche)

Bright red skin, high yields of big potatoes, good all round cooking qualities and Delia has made this a favourite.

**Harmony**

Produces large crops of waxy white skinned tubers,, resistant to scab, good firm cooking characteristics. Good show bench potato and stores well.

**Heidi Red \***

German Speciality variety with medium blight resistance. Produces long shaped tubers with bright red skin and flesh. A slightly buttery, delicious potato taste, ideal for salads and boiled potatoes.

**Java \***

A strong robust variety with excellent fungal, bacterial, virus and pest resistances. Ideal for gardens and allotments as it is a consistently high-yielding variety with attractive long red tubers.

**Lady Balfour \*#**

High yielding with exceptional vigour under low fertility. waxy sweet flesh. Keep well in storage.

**Maris Piper (1963, (Sol Andigena x Ulster Knight) x (Arran Cairn x Herald) )**

The chippies favourite but slugs like it, too. Good yields and flavour, excellent for frying and mashing. Oval, cream flesh, large tubers.

**Ratte (1872)**

Similar to Pink Fur Apple but earlier, possibly more productive. Nutty flavour, smooth buttery texture

**Setanta \* (2004, Rooster x Brodick)**

A very good, floury, general purpose / roaster. Good blight and disease resistance, inherited its cooking qualities from Rooster, high yielding and pretty. Oval, red skin, light yellow flesh. Highly recommended.

**Sunset \***

Red skinned, creamy coloured flesh. Good in extreme conditions, lovely flavour can be used for boiling, roasting and mashing

**Late Maincrop****Arran Victory \* (1912, seedling of Suttons Abundance)**

A striking purple skinned, white floury fleshed potato. Excellent for mashing and frying, very good for roasting and baking. Very large plants and high yields.

**Cara \* (1973, A 25 19 x Ulster Glade)**

Tall plants, high yields of often big potatoes, short oval with pink eyes and cream flesh. Good all round disease resistance including eelworm and moderate blight. Slightly waxy, good general purpose.

**Kerr's Pink (1917, Fortyfold x Smiths Early)**

Perhaps the best roaster. Floury, great for mashing and good for frying, too. Yields can be very good, big plant. Roundish, often deep eyes, pink flashes on white skin, white flesh.

**Sarpo Mira \***

Renowned by many for its resistance to late blight and even blight recovery, this red skinned tuber is oval in shape with pale flesh. High yielding and long storage capacity makes this both a grower and cooker favourite.

**Suggestions**

**Blight resistant:** Very good : Setanta; Fair : Orla, Bambino, Kestrel, Colleen, Cara, Jazzy, Nicola, Sarpo Mira, Alouette

**Eelworm resistant:** Maris Piper, Casablanca, Colleen, Bambino, Nicola, Cara, Pentland Javelin, Kestrel, Swift

**Roast:** Kerr's Pink, Setanta, Maris Piper

**Mash:** Kerr's Pink, British Queen, Sharpe's Express, Maris Piper, Arran Victory

**Fry/ chips :** Maris Piper, Casablanca, Foremost, Orla, Alouette

**Baking :** Kestrel, Lady Balfour, Casablanca, Foremost, Acoustic, Alouette, Java

**Salad/ Boiling :** Lady Christl, Charlotte, Bambino, Maris Peer, Nicola, Foremost. All first Earlies boil well.

**Good all rounders :** Kestrel, Setanta, British Queen, Orla, Casablanca, Colleen, Sharpe's Express, Lady Balfour, Desiree, Cara, Sarpo Mira

**Coloured flesh :** Heidi Red

**Old fashioned (before 1920):** Sharpe's Express, British Queen, Kerr's Pink,

**Modern Classics :** Kestrel, Lady Christl, Orla, Setanta, Lady Balfour, Sarpo Mira

**Rooster** - can't get this year, but maybe try Setanta - one of its parents is Rooster.