

Potatoes in Grow Sacks

I suspect your grow bag holds between and 40 and 50 litres of compost.

I normally plant 3 large or 4 medium to small seed potatoes per sack.

For your 8 tubers you will need 2 sacks, but if the seed potatoes are large you will need 3 sacks. Planting the 2 largest seed potatoes in a sack and the remaining 6 shared with the two other sacks – 3 in a sack. If they are medium to small then you will get away with 4 in each sack.

Firstly, I suggest you acquire some potato fertiliser – I use Vitax Organic Fertiliser which you can get from Dobbies. It will keep for 3 or 4 years if opened carefully and then resealed with Sellotape [or similar] stored in a dry cool space.

Next put about 15 to 20 litres of compost into each potato sack to a depth of about a third of the height of each of the sacks;

Then put 40/50 grammes of Vitax potato fertiliser into each sack and give a good shake to ensure the fertiliser is well mixed in.

Lightly firm the compost and then place your seed potatoes, shoots up wards, either in a square if 4; or triangle if 3 - keeping them about 5"/6" apart.

Cover with a further 10 to 15 litres of compost so that each sack is now at least 2/3rds fully and possibly $\frac{3}{4}$ full maximum.

Sprinkle 12 grammes of potato fertiliser over the surfaces of each sack and just lightly work into the topping up compost.

Put the sack[s] in a sheltered, well lit, frost free position and water in with about 3 litres of water

Check for re watering every 3 or 4 days keeping moist but not soaking wet. As the growth rate appears and increases exponentially watering frequency will need to increase and so will the amount. Avoid over watering but keep lightly moist.

When the shoots have reached a height of about 3" to 4" top up with compost so that the tips of the shoots are just left slightly exposed. No additional fertiliser is required as the feed is in the main root area. You can continue to top up with compost until the compost surface is about 2" below the top of each bag.

Watering will increase to a point when you may well be giving up to half a gallon a day to each sack. You may even find on very hot days, God forbid we should see such again of course, that you need to water twice a day - once in the morning and once in the late afternoon.

Depending upon where you have placed your potato sacks, the haulms may be subject to some wind blow and if they have managed to get up quite high, about 2' or more you may need to just tie them in to stop the haulms collapsing over the edge of the sacks.

From potato planting to harvest will depend upon the variety and type grown. As a general guide

1st Earlies 12 to 14 weeks; 2nd Earlies 14 to 16 weeks; Maincrop 16 to 20 weeks [Although these can be left longer if the haulms are still in good green condition].