

### Nottingham Organic Gardeners: Potato Day 2015

Descriptions based on UK Potato Council data, the European Cultivated Potato Database or Alan Romans, *Guide to Seed Potato Varieties*.

**Recommended for salads:** Charlotte, Harlequin, International Kidney, Juliette, Nicola, Pink Fir Apple

**Good all-rounders:** Ambo, Kestrel, Lady Balfour, Picasso, Rudolph, Robinta, Wilja

**Tasty bakers:** Desiree, Estima, Marfona, Stemster

**Delicious & floury for roasts, mash, & chips:** Epicure, King Edwards, Maris Piper, Red Duke of York, Rudolph, Shetland Black

**Growing for disease resistance?** Charlotte, Lady Balfour, Lady Christl, Sarpo Mira

**Entering your local show?** Estima, Kestrel, Maxine, Sherine, Vanessa

**Growing in a container?** Lady Christl, Swift, Picasso

1<sup>st</sup> Early ready June to July; 2<sup>nd</sup> Early - ready June to August; Early Maincrop ready August; Late Maincrop ready September onwards.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> earlies (\* denotes Soil Association organic standard)

PCN = eelworm

Variety	Cooking qualities	Notes	Resistance to	Susceptible to
Accent	Waxy & firm with good flavour. Boil or bake. Nice in salads.	RHS AGM variety. High yields of pale yellow flesh. Very early. Eat fresh from ground.	Scab, PCN g. rostochiensis,	Late blight, however 1 <sup>st</sup> early
Arran Pilot	Good for boiling and chipping; excellent flavour.	A favourite garden variety. Dates from 1930s. Midway between floury & waxy.	Scab, slugs	Late blight; however 1 <sup>st</sup> early
Colleen*	Good boiled, also fries well. Did well on NOGs allotment.	White skin, light yellow flesh. Good yields, uniform tuber size.	Blight, scab	Blight on foliage (tubers quite resistant)
Epicure	Floury: boil with care – better steamed/mashed. Very good flavour.	1897 Ayrshire. Recovers from frost damage better than other varieties. High yields.	Frost (foliage), slugs	PCN (both)
Foremost	Popular as new potato. Good flavour, slightly waxy, boils well.	White flesh. RHS AGM variety. Popular garden variety.	Scab	Blight (but 1 <sup>st</sup> early), leafroll virus, virus Y.
Lady Christl	Excellent cooking qualities. Waxy and should boil well.	High yielding variety of numerous uniform attractive tubers. Good general disease resistance. RHS AGM.	Scab, leaf roll, PCN globodera rostochiensis	Blight on foliage, PCN globodera pallida
Maris Bard*	Retains its colour & shape when boiled. Also mash, steam, sauté.	High yielding, good size and appearance. RHS AGM.	Drought, Leaf roll, gangrene	PCN
Red Duke of York	Lovely roasts. Fairly floury. Tasty mash and bakers.	Beautiful ruby skins, yellow flesh. 1942 heritage variety. RHS AGM.	Dry rot	Leaf roll, blight (but 1 <sup>st</sup> early)
Rocket	Waxy-ish. Boils well, mild flavour	Produces very early firm, waxy tubers. Big tubers if left. Reliable. Good yields.	Slugs, PCN (esp. g. rostochiensis)	Blight, but 1 <sup>st</sup> early.
Swift	Delicate early potato flavour. Good all-rounder.	Very early, large tubers if left. Short foliage; good container type. Good disease resistance.	Virus Y, slugs, blackleg, scab, PCN	Blight, but 1 <sup>st</sup> early
Vanessa	Waxy. Boils well, & good baked. Versatile & tasty.	Red skin, yellow flesh. Like an early Desiree. Dutch variety.	Scab, drought	Dry rot

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> earlies

\* denotes organic

PCN = eelworm

Variety	Cooking qualities	Notes	Resistance to	susceptible to
Charlotte*	Waxy salad potato. Very good flavour. Our most popular variety by far!	Long yellow tubers. Reliable and stores well. High yields. RHS AGM.	Blight, slugs	PCN
Estima	Good flavour. Hold their shape when boiled. Good mash, bakers, wedges, Dauphinoise.	Widely sold in supermarkets. Cream-coloured skin and yellow flesh. High yields and uniform tubers.	Common scab, drought, slugs	PCN, leafroll virus, powdery scab
International Kidney	Excellent boiled or as a salad potato. Famous for its flavour.	'Jersey Royal' variety. Kidney shaped & pale yellow. Waxy when young.	Leaf roll	Late blight
Juliette	Excellent salad variety. Waxy, creamy flesh. Very good flavour.	French variety. Long oval tubers with yellow flesh. High yielding.	Blight, PCN, scab	Potato virus Y
Kestrel	Decent all-rounder. Semi-waxy, good roasts and chips, 'old-fashioned' taste.	Kestrel gives good yields of very attractive, long oval, partly coloured tubers. Good show potato.	Blackleg, dry rot, gangrene, leaf roll	Blight, moderately susceptible to scab
Marfona	Popular early baker. 'Buttery' flavour. Can also be boiled.	Can also be grown as a maincrop. Good yields. Netherlands (1975).	Dry rot, blight, drought	PCN
Maxine	Waxy and a good all-rounder. Even tuber size & smooth skin.	RHS AGM variety. Red skins, very white flesh. Heavy cropping.	PCN, drought, powdery scab	Blight
Nicola	Not quite as waxy as Charlotte, but still waxy. Popular taste: sweet & nutty.	Good sub for Charlotte. High yield, uniform tubers, stores quite well. Popular at Whitemoor.	Scab, leaf roll, drought, PCN g. rostochiensis	PCN globodera pallida
Shetland Black	Floury – best roasted, fried, baked or steamed. Sweet, buttery flavour. Great crisps.	Dark blue, almost black skin, yellow flesh with distinctive blue ring. Victorian variety.	Sturdy & grows well in windswept Shetlands!	Blight

Sherine	All-rounder in the kitchen. Waxy & delicious boiled. A favourite at Chesterfield Potato Day!	Sometimes listed as 1 <sup>st</sup> early. NVS variety. Bright white skins, good for show bench.	Scab, PCN	Blight, but early variety
Wilja	Robust earthy flavour, slightly rough skin. Boil, chip, mash, roast, bake.	Long oval yellow tubers with light yellow flesh. In-between waxy and floury. Consistent yields. 1967.	Scab – common and powdery, leaf roll	PCN
Yukon Gold	Bake or mash. Buttery taste. Can also be boiled, fried. Stores well.	Golden flesh, popular in US & Canada. Yellow Peruvian variety X Norgleam.	Dry rot, blackleg, virus Y	Slug damage, PCN

**Maincrop varieties** \* denotes organic

PCN = Eelworm

Variety	Cooking qualities	Notes	Resistance to	Susceptible to
Ambo* (early main)	All-purpose – midway between waxy & floury. Bake or boil.	Very attractive, part-red tubers. High yielding. Desiree X Cara.	Blight, drought, scab	PCN
Belle de Fontenay (early main)	Very good flavour, improves on storage. Good for salads. Waxy.	Classic French salad variety – c. 1885. Also great leek & potato soup!	Scab	PCN
Cara (late main)	Mild flavoured creamy flesh, good baked or roasted. Soft waxy texture.	Attractive white tubers with red eyes. Stores well. Good general disease resistance.	Blight, drought, slugs, PCN g. rostochiensis	PCN globodera pallida
Desiree (early main)	Popular 'nutty' flavour. Excellent roasted, boiled or baked. Delia recommends!	Pink skin, yellow flesh, great flavour. Between waxy and floury. 1962. Decent yields even in dry conditions.	'Medium' resistance to slugs & most diseases.	PCN, can suffer from blight.
EM10 Mary's Rose* (early main)	Good flavour, holds shape well. Boil, mash or wedges.	New variety developed by organic supplier Skea! In 2 <sup>nd</sup> yr of trials. Pink skin, white flesh. High yields.	No info as yet...	... why not try it & see?
Foxton (main)	Floury, but firm. Good flavour. All-rounder.	Red skin, yellow flesh. Dutch variety bred from Irene and Maris Piper.	Dry rot, late blight	PCN, scab
Harlequin (early main)	Good flavour – salad variety. Has done well in blind tests.	Pink Fir Apple X Charlotte. Good yields Creamy texture. Not as waxy as PFA.	Blackleg, scab	Blight on tubers, PCN
Harmony (main)	Waxy, good for boiling, but less good texture when baked or mashed.	High yields of bold bright tubers. Excellent storage. Good for exhibition. Daughter of Nadine.	Gangrene, black dot, silver scurf	Powdery scab
King Edward (late main)	Iconic for roasts & mash. Excellent flavour. Floury, so boil with care.	Introduced in UK in 1902. Good cooking quality, flavour and frying colour. Lovely traditional taste.	Scab, spraing, slugs, bruising.	Blight, PCN
Lady Balfour* (early main)	Good general purpose, strong earthy flavour. Mash, boil, bake, roast.	Named after Soil Ass. founder. Pink splashed tubers. Huge yields, even in poorer soils.	Blight, PCN	Variable tuber size
Linda* (main)	Good for gratins and oven bakes. V good flavour. Waxy becoming floury on storage. Popular with NOGs members.	Vigorous campaign saved Linda from legal extinction. Yellow flesh. Grows well in organic systems. Good yields.	Blight (members' observation).	PCN, viruses (not specified which)
Maris Piper (early main)	Heston Blumenthal's favourite for chips! Pleasant floury texture, good flavour.	Maincrop maturity with high yields and many tubers per plant. Stores well.	PCN, gangrene, bruising	Slugs, scab, virus Y
Picasso (early main)	Good all-rounder – great mash, roasts, bakers. Good flavour, can be boiled too. RHS AGM.	Pretty oval white tubers, pink eyes, cream/light yellow flesh. Cara is a parent. Popular on allotments.	Scab, medium blight r., general virus resistance	Slugs
Pink Fir Apple (late main)	RHS AGM. Very waxy, will not disintegrate. Delicious nutty flavour. Salads! Curries!	Knobbly pink long tubers, yellow flesh. Good yield if given long enough. Waxy firm texture. Storage v good.	Scab	PCN, blight, viruses leaf roll, A, B, C, X
Robinta* (early main)	Good flavour & good all-rounder. Retain shape when boiled.	Smooth red skin & cream flesh. High level of disease resistance.	Blight, scab, general resistance	PCN
Romano (main)	Good all-rounder, midway between waxy and floury.	Short oval, red tubers with cream flesh. High yields and stores well. Bred as resistant Desiree type.	Blight (tubers), spraing, skin spot, slugs	PCN, some blight on foliage
Rudolph* (early main)	Fluffy, creamy flesh with lovely flavour – great baked, mash, roasts or chips.	Red skin, white flesh. High yields of bold red tubers. Gold at Welsh True Taste Food & Drink awards in 2012.	Bruising, splitting, dry rot	PCN, blight on tubers
Sarpo Mira* (main)	Floury but all-rounder. Boil with care. Opinions divided on flavour.	Very resistant to blight. Good yields. Harvest August to stop them becoming too floury/starchy.	Bruising, blackleg, blight, viruses, slugs	PCN
Stemster (early main)	Red skin, tasty, creamy yellow flesh. Boil, mash, bake or roast.	Bred from Desiree & Maris Piper but better disease resistance. Good yields	Scab, PCN g. rostochiensis, blight, drought	PCN g. pallida, leafroll virus