

## *Potato Time its starting now!*

Potato, potarto, however you say it, it is the time to plant up your spud patch for this year's crop of beautiful home grow potatoes. One of the easier veggies to grown and they give you a great return for effort. They can be grown in the ground, in a no dig garden on the ground in a straw and compost heap or in large grow bags and pots. We carry six different varieties, each has its own qualities and uses which are listed on the packet. They are

Sebago, Desiree, Kipfler, Royal Blue, Ruby Lou and Dutch Cream. I like Royal Blue as they are a good all round spud with purple skin and are a good long keeping variety.

When planting potatoes be sure to use Certified seed potatoes so as not to pass on diseases from one year to the next. Be sure to keep the developing tubers covered from the sun with a good layer of soil or mulch. This will stop the sunlight turning the tuber

green and producing solanine which is a natural toxin that can cause nausea and other intestinal upsets.

Once the plants have flowered you can start to Bandicoot a few fresh spuds but they are best left until the plants have died off and gone brown as the tubers by then will have cured properly and will be able to be stored for many

