

Potato Day 2016 Varieties - Descriptive List

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

First Earlies

Accent (1989, **Alcmaria x AM66.42**)

Very early, high yielding, short oval, fairly waxy pale yellow flesh. Good flavour, excellent new potato, slug and partial eelworm resistance, RHS AGM. Highly recommended, does well in containers and polytunnel.

Red Duke of York (1942, Duke of York variant)

Floury and excellent flavour, but a big disadvantage: very susceptible to blight on both leaves and tubers. Red skin / yellow skin, pale yellow flesh, oval shape. Best fried, roasted, mashed or baked; boil carefully.

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

A very good waxy salad potato, probably has the edge over Charlotte in yield, earliness, and taste. Moderate foliar blight resistance, good tuber blight resistance. Long oval shape, white skin, yellow flesh.

Sharpe's Express (1900)

Another tasty one that's on the floury side. Rated as poor blight resistance but surprisingly good resistance. Somewhat irregular oval shape, white flesh.

Sherine (1987, S. vernei polycross derivative)

Late first early, related to Nadine, shallow eyed, fairly waxy, good new potato but also general purpose. Can produce quite big tubers good for baking. Good eelworm resistance, fair blight resistance.

Second Earlies

Anya (1996, Desiree x Pink Fir Apple)

One of my favourite boiled potatoes, slightly nutty taste. Less knobbly than Pink Fir Apple and has similar flavour; scrub, don't peel. Unimpressive plants, avoid shading with tall varieties.

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 # (1966, 120/13 x Ulster Knight)

A good salad / boiling potato - especially if eaten soon after digging; popular, waxy. Oval, cream flesh.

Nadine (1987, S. vernei polycross derivative)

Very high yielding producing many smallish, oval smooth skinned potatoes good for boiling. Good eelworm resistance.

Apache # (2010, Stroma x S. phureja seedling)

Attractive piebald red / white skin, roundish tubers, yellow flesh. Just scrub and roast – yummy. Steam rather than boil.

Charlotte (1981, Hansa x Danae)

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

Jazzy # (2009, Franceline x Cupido)

A tattie with its own website, apparently good boiled, steamed, crushed or roasted! Long oval, waxy, pale yellow flesh.

Early Maincrop

Desiree (1962, Urgenta x Depesche)

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

King Edward # (1902, Magnum Bonam x Beauty of Hebron)

The reference roasting potato but seems to be more suited to the south than here.

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. Has many competitors.

Rooster (1991, OP 2532 64 x Pentland Ivory)

Started as a specialist crisping / frying variety but rapidly got noticed as a high yielding, floury, tasty potato. Excellent for frying and roasting, very good for mashing. OK for boiling. Oval, red skinned, yellowish flesh.

Salad Blue (old, parents unknown)

This one is blue inside, too! and has beautiful flowers. Not a salad potato - floury, good for mashing and frying, decent for roasting. Good cropper if blight doesn't get it. Roundish, blue skin and flesh.

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.

Shetland Black (late 1800s?)

Dark blue skinned, small to medium sized tubers with a purple-black ring under the skin. Decent yields, lots of tubers, floury and tasty, good for baking, chipping, roasting. Probably my favourite fried potato, makes fantastic crisps.

Blue Belle (2007, Sylvia x Cara)

Oval, white skin with distinctive, purple/blue eye patches. A good general purpose potato with fine flavour. Does well in bags and boxes. Pale yellow flesh.

Harlequin (2003, Charlotte x Pink Fir Apple)

Smooth, pretty part pale pink flushed skin, tapered oval potatoes. You can taste the Pink Fir Apple parentage, very yummy boiled. Highly recommended.

Innovator # (2004-ish, Shepody x RZ-84-2580)

A russet skinned, high dry matter, floury, cream coloured flesh, often large round to oval potato. Good flavour, yields, good roast and mash, very good blight resistance. Recommended.

Late Maincrop**Golden Wonder *** (1906, seedling of Early Rose)

Oval, russet skin, dense white flesh. Floury, good flavour, roasts well, excellent fryer that absorbs little fat. Best stored until after Xmas.

Sarpo Mira (2003, 76 PO 12 14 268 x D187)

The most blight resistant variety at the moment. Floury-ish general purpose, tubers can get big, high yielding. Stores exceptionally well, drought tolerant. Oval-ish, red skin, cream flesh. Flavour OK - can't have everything in one variety!

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

Perhaps the best roaster in my opinion. 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.

Special thanks go to Transition Black Isle for assisting Soirbheas with sourcing seed potatoes for the Tattie Project.