

## THE JUTE SHOP ECO FRIENDLY POTATO/VEGETABLE GROW BAGS

Now anybody can grow delicious home-grown potatoes, whether or not they have a garden. The new Potato/Vegetable grow bags are designed specifically for use on patios and balconies, or in small gardens where there's no space for a vegetable patch.

The Potato/Vegetable grow bags are easy to use and reusable. Each holds about 40 litres of compost and is suitable for between 3 to 5 seed potatoes. Made from Laminated Jute, having reinforced drainage holes at the base, can be easily moved using the handles on each side and come complete with detailed growing instructions.

So by planting at 4 to 6 week intervals you can spread your harvest over an extended period. Even better, there is no need to do any digging when they are ready, simply remove a few at a time or tip the planter out and enjoy the real taste of home-grown spuds.

- Product Dimension : H 25 cm x W 45 cm  
H 45 cm x W 33 cm  
H 30 cm x W 39 cm
- Colour : Natural ● Product form : Folded
- Side handles with bottom eyelet.



### What You'll Need on Planting Day

- **Seed potatoes:** You can buy them or provide your own. The medium Grow Bag holds three to five pieces; the Jumbo holds seven to 10 (see the first picture below).
- **Soil:** You can either buy the potting mix with fertilizer or make your own by mixing garden soil, potting soil and a little bit of compost. The goal is a free-draining mixture. If you have heavy soil or clay, stick with a mix that's blended for use in containers.
- **Granular fertilizer** (if your potting mix doesn't have fertilizer)
- **Water**

Instructions below are for growing potatoes but can be used for most vegetables. Our Grow Bags are specialized fabric "pots" that make it possible to grow potatoes in almost any sunny location — even on a deck or a porch.

### Planting

- **Pick the site:** Plant potatoes when the danger of frost has passed. Select the sunniest site possible. All-day sun is best, but as little as 6 to 8 hours will do. Keep in mind that you will need to water the Potato Bag regularly, especially if rainfall is insufficient.



- **Prepare the soil:** Put the soil in a wheelbarrow or tub that can hold it all at once. If you've chosen potting mix that does not have fertilizer in it, add granular fertilizer. Moisten the soil and mix thoroughly. About one-third of the soil will get used on planting day. The rest will be used as the plants grow. Set it aside. Note: Fill bottom 10% of the grow pot with sticks and small stones to reduce the soil running out of the pot.
- **Prepare the seed potatoes:** Cut the seed potatoes into the size of limes. If your seed potatoes are small, you can plant them whole.
- **Plant the bag:** Fold down the top edge of the bag to form a 10cm cuff. Fill the bag with the moistened soil mixture until it's about 10cm deep. Place the seed potatoes on the soil surface, spaced evenly. Always make sure the eyes or sprouts are always facing up. Cover with another lot of soil to cover the seed potatoes.

Once the plants have grown to about 20cm, it's time to add more soil. It's OK if some of the foliage gets buried. Unfold the edge of the bag and add about 10cm of the soil mixture and water thoroughly. Allow the plants to grow, adding soil after they've grown another 20cm. Repeat the process until all the soil mixture is used and the bag is full.

This unusual technique encourages the plants to make lots of potatoes, which form along the buried portions of stem.

### When to Plant

- **Warm season vegetables** (planted October to February, harvested December to May) tomatoes, sweet corn, squash, eggplants, melons, capsicums, cucumbers, potatoes, pumpkins, beans.
- **Cool season vegetables** (planted February to September, harvest May to December) broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, onions, shallots, peas, spinach, turnips, broad beans.
- **All season vegetables** (less affected by season temperatures) cabbage, carrots, celery, leeks, lettuce, parsnips, radish, beetroot, silver beet.

### Growing

- **Water regularly:** The porous fabric allows the Grow Bag to breathe, which prevents overheating and overwatering. However, it's important to monitor the moisture level in the bag because it can dry out quickly. The soil should feel moist, not soggy. In the hottest part of the summer, it might be necessary to water every day.
- **Watch for pests:** Snails and slugs are the main offenders and they can be controlled with pellets.

### Harvest

Potato plants usually look pretty shabby just before it's time to harvest.

- **Look for the signs:** Pay attention to watering and your plant will flower and grow vigorously through the summer. Toward the end of the season, however, the leaves will start yellowing and the stems will wilt. At this point, stop watering and wait a week or two. After that, the potatoes are ready to harvest.
- **Dump the bag:** Empty the bag — plants, soil and all — into a wheelbarrow. Dig through the soil and pull out the potatoes. You can expect to harvest about 3kg of potatoes, although you could get as much as 6kg in a good year. Add the old soil to your garden or compost pile. Clean out the bag and save it for next year.