**LE Grows Maris Piper Potatoes Competition 2023!**

**And the winners are… everyone who took part! 😊**

A small token of congratulations will be winging its way to you all shortly.

**So, here’s how it went…**

**1st February 2023 – Chitting Time!**

[Maris Pipers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maris_Piper) have a local Cambridge connection as they are named after Maris Lane in Trumpington, home of the Plant Breeding Institute that developed them in the 1940s. They taste delicious boiled, roasted, or mashed and are really easy to grow in a bucket or bag as well as in the ground. Potatoes are “[chitted](https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/gardening-children-schools/family-activities/grow-it/grow/chit-early-potatoes)” to help kick off the growing process, hopefully for a better crop. Here’s mine snuggled in recycled egg boxes.

A picture containing indoor, rack, lined, several

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March/April – not much happening ☹

A black container with dirt and plants

Description automatically generated

but then in early May… 😊 Sam’s spuds showing promise in containers and Laura and her daughter Lexi’s doing really well in their bag, and both showing just how easy it is to grow your own.

Two black pots with plants in the grass

Description automatically generated A plant in a bag

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The summer was a bit of a wash-out - my *pots in a bucket* experiment in our LE Courtyard got flooded and perished, but I did find a “[volunteer](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gardenorganic.org.uk%2Fexpert-advice%2Fgarden-management%2Fweeds%2Fweed-datasheets%2Fvolunteer-potato&data=05%7C01%7Cldh31%40cam.ac.uk%7C6db3212e94514e7b356d08dbb36296c4%7C49a50445bdfa4b79ade3547b4f3986e9%7C1%7C0%7C638301008417973055%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Hr0rWQ9TL03fE5gkdlziR%2Be77YekgSRA4VkRTpc8CLM%3D&reserved=0)” in one of the raised beds.

And by September we’ve been busy harvesting and enjoying eating our Maris Pipers.

[**Here’s a culinary idea**](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/black-pepper-hasselback-potatoes)

Davide has been a bit disappointed with his harvest (but he was trying them in a new part of his garden), Thies is the same but as you can see his daughter Liv has enjoyed digging them up.

Jill’s being dug-up Laura and Lexi’s ready for cooking Our LE [volunteer](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gardenorganic.org.uk%2Fexpert-advice%2Fgarden-management%2Fweeds%2Fweed-datasheets%2Fvolunteer-potato&data=05%7C01%7Cldh31%40cam.ac.uk%7C6db3212e94514e7b356d08dbb36296c4%7C49a50445bdfa4b79ade3547b4f3986e9%7C1%7C0%7C638301008417973055%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Hr0rWQ9TL03fE5gkdlziR%2Be77YekgSRA4VkRTpc8CLM%3D&reserved=0) spud

A pile of dirt and grass

Description automatically generated A group of potatoes on a paper towel

Description automatically generated A plant with flags on it

Description automatically generated

Mine And Liv’s (plus fox!)

Potatoes in a pot of water

Description automatically generated A child holding a corn stalk

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**Congratulations to all our successful, green-fingered growers and a small token of appreciation will be winging its way to you all shortly…**

**And what about next year, you ask? I’m thinking red hot chilli peppers** 😊