



**TAEWA MĀORI**  
**(Māori potatoes)**  
*Solanum tuberosum*  
**PRODUCTION NOTES**

## **SEED**

There are many varieties of taewa, with each having their own distinctive appearance and uses. Seed tubers should be 40 – 65 grams (similar to a golf ball size) in size and warmed outdoors in the sun for several days prior to planting.

## **PLANTING**

- Every 3 years the crop should be rotated to another plot to prevent disease carry-over.
- Cultivate the seedbed so a fine texture is achieved.
- Prefers soil pH 5.0 – 6.0
- Apply pre-emergence herbicide if preferred.
- Apply N:P:K fertiliser (75:40:45 for main crops) as a base dressing at planting.
- Plant late October – early November after frosts and soil temperatures increase (14°C minimum).
- Requires 900 kg/ha of seed if 30grams; 50g seed requires 1500 kg/ha.
- Spacing between rows should be 1 metre; between plants in the row = 30cm.
- Tubers should be planted at a depth of 75 – 100mm.
- Mound/mould once planted.
- Mound/mould 1 or 2 more times during the season to protect from sun and wind.
- Keep weeded.

## **CROP MANAGEMENT**

- A side dressing of fertiliser (Nitrogen 40 kg/ha maximum) can be applied prior to the final mounding. (nitrogen products can be blood, urea, seaweed concentrates and others).
- Main crops require 500 – 700mm of water over the growing period, however, irrigate as applicable if soil becomes very dry.
- Weed either by hand or with herbicides (mounding helps with weed control).
- Pest control – primarily potato psyllid, aphids, looper caterpillar, wireworm, potato tuber moth, slugs and snails.
- Disease control – watch for late blight, early blight, powdery scab and common scab. In storage, tubers are susceptible to some rots and gangrene.

## **HARVEST**

If being used for fresh consumption, bandicooting for “new” potatoes can be carried out 2-3 months after planting. Otherwise, harvest once tops start to dry off in March – May. Keep fresh harvested taewa out of the sun to stop any greening affecting their quality.

## **SEED**

For seed, choose tubers of good colour and shape (40 – 65g/ golfball size) then store in a cool, dry and dark place. Do not save damaged, unsightly or imperfect tubers as seed for the next season.