

AGRICO POTATO SERVICES AFRICA LTD OFFERS HIGH-QUALITY SEED POTATOES

Agrico Potato Services Africa Limited (PSA) supplies high-quality and high yielding certified seed potato varieties originating from The Netherlands. A selection of our top-performers in East Africa:

Arizona.



Maturity

Early
(± 95 days)

Main Characteristics

- ▶ Arizona is an early maturing table variety
- ▶ Yellow skin potato with big oval tubers, suitable for cooking, mashing or in stews
- ▶ Very high yielding in various climatic conditions, with a good heat tolerance
- ▶ For retail and the wakulima (local) market

Manitou.



Maturity

Medium
(± 100 days)

Main Characteristics

- ▶ Manitou is a maincrop ware variety with an attractive light red skin
- ▶ High yield and suitable for home fries (fresh) or table consumption
- ▶ Large oval tubers with shallow eyes
- ▶ Good heat tolerance

Markies.



Maturity

Late
(± 120 days)

Main Characteristics

- ▶ Markies is a high-yielding, late maturing variety with multipurpose use
- ▶ Good for French fries (chips), crisps, or for fresh consumption (table)
- ▶ Large, yellow, uniform-sized oval tubers with shallow eyes

Our sales representatives:

North Rift - Emmy Jerono - 0758 925459

Central Rift - Daniel Mwaura - 0719 698494

South Rift - Geoffrey Mutai - 0758 908078

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Agrico Potato Services Africa Ltd.

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Offices at Highlands Farm, Nakuru, KENYA

GENERAL TIPS ON PROFITABLE POTATO FARMING

SEEDS:

When you use certified seeds your crop and yields can significantly improve in terms of quality and quantity. The only way to confirm seed is certified is by the Kephis label.

FIELD & FERTILIZER:

Have a good crop rotation program. To prevent bacterial wilt, only plant potatoes in the same field once every four years. The field should be very well-ploughed and leveled, to prevent rain/water damage. Find out about the nutrients in the soil by taking soil samples, which will guide you on the correct fertilizer to use in your farm. Ensure you follow a fertilizer program specialized for potatoes, to give the crop all the macro & micro nutrients it needs, as well as trace elements for good tuber quality.

PLANTING:

Ensure that you have a minimum 28 – 30 cms of loose soil in depth. Place the seed just on top of the soil that has been loosened and build a ridge above it. For planting, we recommend a row width of 75 cms, and ensure there is 30 – 35 cms space between each tuber within the row. If you are using seed size 1, you need to use about 800-1,000 kgs of seed and if you are using seed size 2 you will need about 1,000 - 1,500 kgs of seed. The exact recommended seed planting rate depends on the variety.

RIDGING:

Ridging the potato rows is recommendable as it helps in controlling weeds, and will give the new tubers space to grow without becoming green from exposure to sunlight later in the growth cycle. Big ridges are recommended and also make it easier to harvest the potato crop without damaging the tubers. You can re-ridge during the season if necessary.

DISEASE PREVENTION:

When you are using certified seed the prevention of (fungal) diseases is very important, especially for Late Blight. Daily scouting of the crop and weekly spraying of the crop is recommended – start with preventive spray and progress to curative sprays later on in the season. Consult reputable chemical companies for advice. Bacterial wilt is common in Kenya. Controlling this can be done by using certified seeds, practicing crop-rotation, maintaining clean fields & clean tools, and by avoiding the use of contaminated irrigation water.

HARVESTING:

Do not dehaulm your crop, but let the crop grow out completely to full maturity. Allow for the leaves and the stems to completely wither and dry off, and then still give the tubers time to let the skin harden. This will add a lot of yield to your harvest and reduce the risk of harvest damage. Be very careful when harvesting, potatoes are sensitive and can easily damage.

Questions? Call Agrico Potato Services Africa on 0741 788 380 or 0742 844 207



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