



FACT SHEET

The History of Jersey Royal New Potatoes

- ❖ Potatoes have been grown in Jersey since the mid-eighteenth century with potatoes at this time competing successfully with parsnips as a field crop
- ❖ By 1810 the once famous cider orchards had vanished from Jersey and growers were experimenting with exporting New Potatoes to England for the early summer trade due to their popularity
- ❖ The Jersey Royal was first known as the Jersey Royal Fluke due to the circumstances by which it originated
- ❖ A farmer called Hugh de la Haye hosted a dinner party at which he showed his friends two potatoes that he had been given. One had 15 eyes (from which new plants sprout) so he decided to plant them to see what happened
- ❖ The following spring a crop appeared and whilst most were round, one crop produced kidney shape potatoes, soon to be known as the Jersey Royal
- ❖ First arrivals of this new breed of potato arrived on the London markets in the 1880s
- ❖ Tonnage grew and by the late 1890s, a usual crop export of Jersey Royals would be in the region of 60,000 tonnes!
- ❖ Eventually the Jersey States Department of Agriculture ordered that no other variety could be exported for New Potato consumption other than the Jersey Royal
- ❖ Today, the Jersey Royal is still the very first New Potato of the season and remains unique in taste and quality
- ❖ In 1878 the market price for a tonne of Jersey Royal Potatoes was 140 shillings

For more information on the history of Jersey Royals contact Phipps PR on 020 7759 7400.