

New chips on the block

The new potatoes in your box this week are from John Danby, the sexagenarian farmer who boycotted the world cup to watch re-runs of All Creatures Great and Small. Seriously.

He grows the Maris Bard variety which are 'an older variety... crikey yeah – we started growing them in the 60s.'

John mostly grows brassicas (cabbage family) but mixes it up with potatoes, celery, and other veg. It's good for the health of the soil, and makes the boxes more interesting. He says, "nobody wants cabbage every week." Agreed.

He went organic because they couldn't survive when growing for supermarkets, and he didn't want to lay off his staff.

"We had livestock y'see, so we had all this free manure to use as fertilizer... so we gave up the chemicals and tried organic. That was in 1999."

He'd like to pass the farm on to his sons one day. But one is a qualified helicopter pilot, and the other went to Thailand last year and hasn't come back yet. "We hear from him

every few weeks, but it does worry us rotten... They're capable of farming, but they can make up their own minds. Most men don't know what they want to do till they're 30."

Back to the spuds please John. "I like them hot with butter and mint, or cold with mayo. You can even make chips with this variety - some new potatoes would disintegrate, but not these."



Super Spud Man

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