Kumara Behind the Scenes

by Trish Puharich

illustrations by Scott Pearson



There's nothing quite like a bowl of tasty kūmara fries or wedges. Yum! But where does that kūmara come from? Some people grow their own kūmara or buy it from a market, but most people in Aotearoa buy their kūmara from a supermarket. Have you ever wondered how the kūmara gets to the supermarket? You might be surprised by how many people are involved. Let's take a look at the journey of the kūmara.



The market garden

A large garden where vegetables are grown to be sold

The packhouse

A building where the kūmara are packed and stored

- Workers wash the kūmara, sort them for size and colour, pack them into crates or bags, and lift them onto pallets.
- Office workers take orders for kūmara from distribution centres.
- Packhouse workers put the orders together, ready to be loaded onto trucks.

- Gardeners grow the kūmara, then dig them up and put them into bins.
- Workers load the bins onto a truck.
- A truck driver takes the bins to the packhouse.

The distribution centre

A place that orders products from packhouses and then sends them to supermarkets and other stores or shops

- A driver delivers the kūmara order from the packhouse to the distribution centre.
- Office workers receive orders from supermarkets for kūmara and other products.
- Workers get the orders ready and load them onto trucks.
- A truck driver sets off with the orders for the supermarket.

The supermarket

A big store that sells many different kinds of food and household products

- The truck driver arrives at the supermarket. (This is often early in the morning when there are no customers.)
- Workers move the kūmara to the storage area.
- Store workers collect the kūmara and put them on the shelves, ready for customers to buy.

So, next time you go to the supermarket, think about the journey of the kūmara and all the people who have helped behind the scenes.

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