

News from the Potato Lab

www.montanaspud.org



September, 2011

Montana Seed Potato Seminar

The 46th Seed Seminar will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula on November 10-11. The Montana Growers meeting is Thursday AM, November 10, followed by a session and lunch sponsored by United Potato Growers. Presentations from potato association and industry representatives will round out the afternoon. A reception will be held late Thursday afternoon at the Hilton Garden Inn. For the Friday seminar, speakers will include Dr. Bill Fry from Cornell University talking on late blight biology and epidemiology. He will be followed by Gary Secor who will speak on practical control measures for late blight. Gary will also speak on an emerging disease that he discovered in Mexico in 1994 which has been coined zebra chip for the discolored pattern that develops in infected potatoes when they are fried. Nora Olsen will present new information on dealing with challenging storage situations. The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Myles Watts from Montana State University. Myles is a Professor of Economics and Ag Economics and is currently serving on the board of The Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, commonly known as Farmer Mac, which was created by Congress to establish a secondary market for agricultural mortgage and rural utilities loans to increase the availability of long-term credit at stable interest rates to segments of rural America. The seminar will be wrapped up by Gary Secor and Barry Jacobsen who will present a "Myth Busters" session on pest management misconceptions, and how they have been debunked by science. The Northern Montana Seed Potato Growers are hoping that all spouses and retired growers will attend the luncheon and take this opportunity to visit with fellow growers from across our state, and our customers and colleagues from visiting states.

2011 Potato Harvest

Harvest of the 2011 crop is now underway. Many growers are digging seed plots and are beginning on their G2-G4 fields. With a dry and warm long-range forecast, we hope that all farmers get their crop in before it gets too cold.

Garden Seed Directory to be Distributed in October

We are currently preparing the first directory specifically for potato garden seed in Montana. Eight growers are listing a total of 26 varieties to be marketed specifically as garden seed. Bulk totes, 50# boxes, 1, 2, and 5# bags are being offered, depending on grower. If you are interested in having some of your potato varieties included in the directory, we still have time to add them. The directory will be printed in color and distributed to every nursery, greenhouse and grocery distributor in Montana.



Purple Fiesta Potato – photo courtesy PVMI

2011 Post Harvest Test

The 2011 Hawaii Post Harvest Test will be planted for the third year at Twin Bridge Farms in North Oahu, HI. The farm is located in Waialua near an old sugar mill. Planting will be conducted November 17-21 by Nina Zidack and Kim Prosek. Leaf picking and evaluations will commence on December 29 with

Nina and Eileen Carpenter. Susie will begin the lab testing on January 2. If you have plans to visit the Hawaii plots, please give Nina a call.

Tuber Testing for Late Blight

Colorado requires a late blight tuber test for any seed shipped to the San Luis Valley for certification. If you plan on sending any seed to this area, please get your tubers to us as soon as possible. The late blight test requires a 3-week incubation, so we need to have the tubers a minimum of 3-4 weeks before your shipping date.

Calendar of Events:

October 4 – Return seed directory proofs to Susie

October 25 – Ronan/Dillon/Fort Benton

Post Harvest Samples collected

October 26 – Gallatin Valley

Post Harvest Samples collected

Westervelt Trucking, Belgrade

October 12 – Payment due for microtubers and tissue culture plantlets

November 9 – MPIA Board Meeting, Advisory Committee, Research Committee, Missoula, MT

November 10-11 – Montana Seed Potato Seminar, Missoula, MT

2011 Certified Seed Potato Acreage

Montana seed potato acreage is up slightly this year with 10,187 acres compared to 9837 acres in 2010. Leaf testing and inspections have proven the 2011 crop to be of excellent health throughout the state. Overall, virus levels are very low. The acreages for individual varieties are reported in the following table.

2011 MONTANA SEED POTATO CROP

VARIETY	Sum Of Acres
ALL BLUE	0.82
ALPINE RUSSET	53.94
ALTURAS	597.00
AMISK	171.04
ASTERIX	22.20
ATLANTIC	0.92
BILDSTAR	58.90
BINTJE	90.00
BLAZER RUSSET	9.40
BONDI	1.00
CAL WHITE	73.76

CARIBE	0.25
CHARLOTTE	0.40
CHERRY RED	7.85
CHIEFTAIN	15.50
CLASSIC RUSSET	165.94
CLEARWATER RUSSET	2.15
COLORADO ROSE	23.57
CRIMSON RED	21.20
DEFENDER	0.41
EXPERIMENTAL	0.03
FRENCH FINGERLING	0.71
GALLATIN RUSSET	48.00
GERMAN BUTTERBALL	1.07
HZ00-1036	0.20
INNOVATOR	111.50
KENNEBEC	3.42
MAZAMA	11.60
MOZART	3.90
NORLAND	6.11
NORLAND 'DARK RED'	112.53
NORLAND 'RED'	31.70
OWYHEE RUSSET	0.00
PREMIER RUSSET	10.84
PURPLE PELISSE	3.40
RANGER RUSSET	976.14
RED PONTIAC	1.43
RED STAR	3.70
RIO GRANDE	47.76
RUSSET BURBANK	4615.13
RUSSET NORKOTAH	592.60
RUSSET NORKOTAH CO(3)	277.79
RUSSET NORKOTAH CO(8)	55.05
RUSSET NORKOTAH TX(112)	69.67
RUSSET NORKOTAH TX(278)	259.53
SAGE RUSSET	2.71
SANGRE	3.11
SATINA	22.50
SHEPODY	30.40
SUMMIT	0.10
UMATILLA	1290.75
UTE RUSSET	0.05
VICTORIA	53.36
VIKING 'PURPLE'	1.65
WESTERN RUSSET	44.90
YELLOW FINN	0.29
YUKON GEM	13.89
YUKON GOLD	163.51
Total Acres	10,187.50