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Cooperative Extension Service
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May 1982
2 pages

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Selecting Potato Varieties for Michigan

R. W. Chase, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences

VARIETY SELECTION IS ESSENTIAL to the production of a top quality potato crop for commercial production as well as the home garden. The variety selected must be adapted to the soil and cultural conditions and acceptable for the chosen market outlet.

The two accompanying tables describe some of the characteristics of several potato varieties.

Table 1 summarizes the characteristics of older varieties available to the industry and observations recorded over several years.

Table 2 identifies characteristics for newer releases with fewer observations and data on commercial use.

These lists do not include all available potato varieties and are limited to varieties which have been evaluated in Michigan.

Table 1. Characteristics of Established Potato Varieties.

Variety	Maturity	Skin Color	Dry Matter	Disease Resistance	Best Market Use	Remarks
ATLANTIC	Med-late	White with netting	High	PVX; net necrosis; golden nematode; hopper burn; med. res. to scab	Chip processing fresh market (home garden)	Susceptible to internal heat necrosis and hollow heart. High yield potential.
KATAHDIN	Late	White	Med.	Mild mosaic Net necrosis	Fresh market (home garden)	Wide range of adaptability to soil, climate and cultural conditions. Very susceptible to scab and should not be grown where scab a problem.
MONONA	Medium	White	Low	Mild and rugose mosaic	Chip processing	Reconditions well for chips. Susceptible to blackleg.
NORCHIP	Medium	White	High	Some to scab	Chip processing	Sets heavy—suggest a spacing of 11-12". Tubers susceptible to late blight. Has short rest period.
NORGOLD RUSSET	Early-med.	Russet	Med.	Scab	Fresh market	Susceptible to hollow heart and blackleg.
NORLAND	Early	Red	Low	Some to scab	Fresh market (home garden)	Has been very susceptible to speckle leaf. Has good tuber shape. Red color intensity decreases with delayed harvest after maturity.
ONAWAY	Early	White	Low	Scab Late blight	Fresh market Poor processor (home garden)	Tubers susceptible to early blight. Suggest spacing of 8" to control size and shape.
RUSSET BURBANK	Late	Russet	High	Some to scab	Baking, French fries, dry and frozen processing	Should not be grown on heavy, poorly drained soils. Can be rough and knobby.
SEBAGO	Late	White	Med.	Mild mosaic Late blight Some to scab	Fresh market Chip processing	Good all purpose potato. Susceptible to blackleg.
SUPERIOR	Early	White with netting	Med.	Scab	Fresh market Chip processing (home garden)	Very good tuber shape and appearance.

Table 2. Recent Potato Variety Release (1979-81).

Variety	Year Released	Release Agency	Characteristics	Tuber Type	Michigan Use*
JEMSEG	1978	N.B. Canada	Early maturity; mod. res. to scab; immune to PVS; Res. to PVY & PVS; suscep. to hollow heart	Large blocky; slightly flattened; light-buff skin	Observation only
BELCHIP	1979	USDA, Fla., NJ, Maine, VA	Med-late maturity; immune to PVA & PVS; res. to golden nematode; Race 0 of late blight and tuber net necrosis; med-high specific gravity	Blocky & flattish with slightly netted skin; med-deep eye	Commercial trial
DENALI	1979	USDA, AK	Late maturity, some scab susceptibility; high specific gravity; above average yields	Smooth; oval to oblong shallow eye; buff skin color	Commercial trial
RIDEAU	1979	Ontario, Canada	Med-late maturity; mod. res. to scab; mosaics and leaf roll; very res. to verticillium wilt	Round; red skin; shallow eye; good color	Limited commercial trial
ALLAGASH RUSSET	1980	Maine	Medium maturity; med-low specific gravity; slow sugar build-up in storage; susceptible to most diseases; below average yields in Michigan	Oblong to round; light russet; shallow eyes and prominent lenticels	Observation only
BELRUS	1980	USDA, FL, Maine	Early maturity; immune to PVA; field res. to virus leafroll; res. to tuber net necrosis; below average yields; tubers suscep. to early blight	Long, smooth, dark russet with prominent white eyes	Limited commercial trial
CRYSTAL	1980	N.D.	Med-late maturity; some late blight res; has shown some pitted scab; susceptible to bruising	Oblong, smooth shallow eyes	Limited commercial trial
DAKCHIP	1980	N.D.	Med-late maturity; med. specific gravity, very short dormancy, susceptible to vascular discoloration	Round to oblong shallow eyes and white skin	Observation only
ROSA	1980	N.Y.	Med-late maturity; res. to golden nematode, early blight & leafroll	Oblong; white skin with pink splashes near eyes	Observation only
RUSSETTE	1980	USDA Beltsville	Late maturity; yields about average; suscep. to hollow heart	Oblong russet with shallow eyes	Limited commercial trial
YUKON GOLD	1980	Ontario Canada	Med-early; susceptible to scab; res. to mild mosaics & mod. res. to virus leafroll	Round to oblong with golden flesh; shallow, pink eyes	Limited commercial trial
CHIPBELLE	1981	USDA, FL, MI, VA, NJ, ME	Med-late maturity; above average yields; very high specific gravity; very susceptible to metribuzin herbicide; good chipping variety	Oval to oblong with buff skin	Limited commercial trial
LEMHI RUSSET	1981	USDA, ID, OR, CA, WA, ND	Med-late maturity; res. to scab and net necrosis; susceptible to PVS, PVX, PVY, leafroll. Suscep. to blackspot and hollow heart	Oblong to long russet; shallow eye	Limited commercial trial
SIMCOE	1981	Ontario, Canada	Med-early resistant to mild mosaic & late blight; med. res. to scab; mod. susceptible to rhizoctonia; susceptible to virus leafroll but resistant to net necrosis	Round & slightly flattened; shallow eyes	Observation only

*Observation only = generally no substantial Michigan performance data.

Limited Commercial Trial = some Michigan data which indicate merit for small planting to evaluate commercial acceptability.

Commercial Trial = Michigan performance data have been favorable.

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