



Potato Progress

Research and Extension for Washington's Potato Industry

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2009 Commercial Seed Lot Trial Information

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Commercial potato seed samples are requested for the 2009 Washington Seed Lot Trial. Two to three hundred whole (single drop) seed is an acceptable sample size, or 50 lbs of 4 oz single drop seed. This seed should not be treated with insecticide or fungicide. Seed tubers need to be uniformly small (not larger than 4 oz) because no seed cutting is done and a cup-type planter is used. A sample that represents the entire seed lot received is most desirable. Sampling the first (or last) 300 seed from the truck is not likely to provide a representative sample of the lot. Sample tags may be obtained by calling the Potato Commission at 509-765-8845.

Your assistance with collection and drop off of seed samples is needed. Seed samples may be taken to the WSU Othello Research Unit (509-488-3191); located on Booker Road ¼ mile south from State Highway 26 and about five miles east of Othello. For sample pickup and any questions regarding the seed lot trials please call:

South Basin: Tim Waters (509-545-3511), Mark Pavek (509-335-6861), or Zach Holden (509-335-3452).

North Basin: Carrie Huffman Wohleb (509-754-2011), Mark Pavek (509-335-6861), or Zach Holden (509-335-3452).

In the North Basin, one seed "drop-off" has been established. It is located at Qualls Ag Labs (Mick Qualls, 509-787-4210 ext 16) on the corner of Dodson Road and Road 4; come to front office between 8 am and 5 pm. Please call the numbers below to arrange additional pickup sites. Samples will be picked up at **2:00 pm the day before each planting date** (below) to be included. Growers planting in early March should drop their samples off at the Othello Research Center or store the samples and call the numbers below for pickup. For all alternative pickup locations or questions please call Mark Pavek at 509-335-6861 or Zach Holden at 509-335-3452.

The planned seed lot planting dates for 2009 are:

1st (Early)	March 24
2nd	April 7
3rd	April 21
4th (Late)	May 5

This year's virus reading of the seed lots will take place on June 9 and 23.

The 2009 Potato Field Day is scheduled for Friday June 26.

Insect Monitoring Supplies Available Free to WA Growers

The potato commission has an ongoing commitment to helping Washington's potato growers adopt and expand IPM practices. In 2009 we will be offering leafhopper and tuberworm trapping supplies to Washington potato growers free of charge. The program will begin in April, and will provide interested growers with supplies for trapping **beet leafhoppers** through the month of July and for trapping **tuberworm moths** from July through October (as needed).

Beet leafhopper is the insect that transmits BLTVA, the phytoplasma that causes purple top throughout the Columbia Basin. The important time to watch for and possibly manage this insect is early in the growing season. Supplies provided for trapping this insect include yellow sticky cards with mounting stakes and clips, and a 4" magnifying glass for counting leafhoppers on the cards. The magnifying glass is necessary to making meaningful counts of beet leafhopper because this insect is small and is only one of many leafhopper species that will be caught on the yellow cards. The yellow sticky traps work simply because the yellow color is attractive to leafhoppers as they move about in their habitat. There is no technology available that limits our catch to only beet leafhopper. Therefore, we offer a leafhopper information card that should help with leafhopper identification. We will also offer personal instruction, on trap deployment and leafhopper counting, to those interested.



Tuberworm is the relatively new pest of potato foliage and tubers. It has so far reached damaging levels only in the Columbia Basin south of Othello, but it can occur and may sometimes cause damage throughout the Basin. It has not been detected west of the Cascades. This pest builds up to damaging levels later in the season, and so we will offer trapping supplies from July through October. Trapping supplies for this insect will include plastic reusable Delta traps, sticky liners for the traps, pheromone capsules to attract the male moths, and trap stands made of PVC conduit. Use of the magnifying glass mentioned above is also highly recommended for this trapping system, to aid identification of tuberworm on the trap cards. We recommend that all growers monitor for tuberworm moths regardless of location because the moth can and will move during the season. Trapping can alert the crop manager to the presence of the pest and give an indication as to whether treatment is necessary. It is an expensive proposition to be caught unaware of an infestation late in the season or after harvest.



To receive supplies for trapping these insects, simply call the commission office, or send an email to ajensen@potatoes.com specifying how many fields you need to monitor and/or how many traps you need. For help with insect identification or any other aspect of insect monitoring, call (509-765-8845) or email Andy Jensen at the commission office.