



BADGER MEMO

The Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program's goal is to provide potato farmers with seed potato planting stock that is healthy and without varietal mixture. We do this through inspections and laboratory testing of the seed potato crop and the expertise of Wisconsin seed potato growers. Early generation seed potato stocks produced in our potato tissue culture laboratory and at the Lelah Starks Elite Foundation Seed Potato Farm aid in this process by providing Wisconsin farmers with a reliable source of seed potatoes.

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Official Approval of Direct Tuber Testing as a Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Diagnostic Tool

The Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program (WSPCP) in partnership with the Wisconsin Seed Potato Improvement Association (WSPIA), is pleased to announce the official approval of Direct Tuber Testing (DTT) as a certification diagnostic tool in Wisconsin.

Following the official voting period, 23 responses were received, all in favor of adopting DTT as an approved stand-alone certification tool. This marks an important step forward in providing Wisconsin's potato industry with cutting edge, molecular-based certification diagnostic tools.

WSPCP staff are already preparing for the upcoming post-harvest testing season to ensure a smooth rollout of this new testing option. Wisconsin seed growers will receive materials outlining available post-harvest testing choices based on where seed lots will be shipped, along with tuber sample collection requirements.

What This Means for Seed Growers

- **Seed lots remaining in Wisconsin** for seed or commercial production will be eligible to use DTT as the required post-harvest test.
- **Seed lots shipped to states that do not currently accept DTT** will continue to have access to traditional post-harvest testing options, including Hawaii or greenhouse grow-out testing.
- **ELISA will be performed on PVY latent varieties** if utilizing traditional post-harvest testing options.
- **Seed growers may request both DTT and traditional testing** if desired, with results averaged together.

- **Additional disease testing** such as Bacterial Ring Rot (BRR), Dickeya sp., Potato MopTop Virus (PMTV), Potato Leafroll Virus (PLRV), Late Blight, GMO, PVY strain testing, or Pectobacterium sp. may also be requested during post-harvest testing selection.

Because acceptance of DTT varies by destination, growers will also receive updated information outlining each state or province's current DTT acceptance policy. This information will continue to be updated as more regions adopt DTT. In the meantime, seed growers who are unsure of their seed lot's destination are strongly encouraged to request a traditional post-harvest test to ensure shipping compliance.

Additional details on implementation will be shared soon. In the meantime, anyone with questions is encouraged to contact WSPCP staff.

PVY and Colonizing Aphid Management Discussion

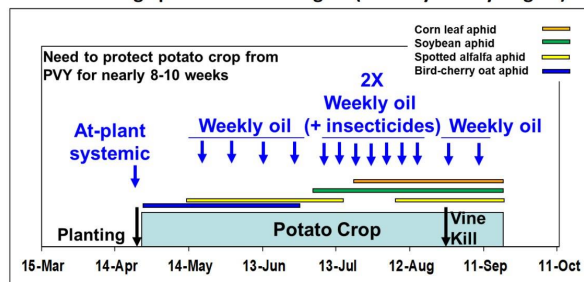
Presentations from the March 19th discussion in Antigo have been sent out via email. If you are still in need of a copy don't hesitate to reach out to Karen Rasmussen at krasmussen@wisconsinpotatoes.com

If you are a seed grower and still need your farm's identification number to examine your data within the presentation, don't hesitate to reach out to Josie Spurgeon at jspurgeon@wisc.edu



Managing PVY Spread: Multi-tactic Approach

- Early grain aphid migrations (mid-June)
- Colonizing aphids and mass flights (late July – early August)



1 - Credit: Dr. Russell Groves

Reminder: Pre-approval of Seed Lots

Please note that **pre-approval of out of state seed lots by our office is required** for all lots you plan to plant that are sourced from out of state. A North American Seed Potato Health Certificate is still required for every lot that you plan to enter for certification.



Potato Cull Pile Disposal - DATCP

Wisconsin potato producers must take steps to dispose of potato cull piles by May 20, 2026, as per ATCP 21.15 Wis. Admin. Code. Cull piles include waste piles of harvested potatoes, seed cutting slivers and waste, storage remnants and sweepings. The purpose of the cull pile regulation is to prevent sprouting of volunteer potato plants from overwintering tubers and serving as an early season source of *Phytophthora infestans* inoculum, the causal agent of **late blight**. Compliant options for cull pile disposal include:

- Feeding potatoes to livestock so that they are completely consumed by May 20;
- Spreading on fields and incorporating into the soil;
- Depositing the cull potatoes in a licensed landfill with the written permission of the landfill operator;
- Another method by which the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) approves in writing. Growers seeking additional information should contact DATCP Northern Field Services Unit Supervisor Jennifer Oestreich at (715) 701-1375 or via email at Jennifer.Oestreich@Wisconsin.gov.



Greenhouse Update

Greenhouses 3 and 4 are currently in production. Greenhouse 2 was planted on March 24th. Greenhouse 1 will be planted in conventional pots at the end of April.





Inspector Contact Info

Di Kessler - 715-610-2640

Cole Lubinski - 715-350-1691

Niles Franc - 608-216-6810

Kevin Gallenberg - 715-216-5552

Contact Us



Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Office

106 7th Ave

Antigo, WI 54409

715-623-4039

Visit us on the web at <https://seedpotato.russell.wisc.edu>