



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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Potato Rot Nematode Sampling & Testing Info

To ensure Canadian import requirements are met for movement of potatoes for seed or commercial production, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is requiring soil sampling for Potato Rot Nematode (PRN) from Wisconsin fields producing potatoes intended for shipment to Canada. Please review the included PRN Fact Sheet to learn more about this regulated pest.

To support PRN testing compliance, potato growers must submit a PRN Soil Sampling Request Form (included) for each field requiring testing. This form will allow samples to be tracked efficiently ensuring all required collection and testing steps are completed prior to anticipated shipment date.

For seed potato growers, PRN soil sampling will follow the same survey timeline as Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) sampling. Soil samples will only be collected from eligible fields requiring PCN sampling. WSPCP staff will transport collected PRN soil samples to the Digennaro Lab within the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Plant Pathology for testing. For commercial potato grower, DATCP staff will collect required soil samples and transport them to the Digennaro Lab for testing.

DATCP staff have developed a comprehensive PRN Soil Sampling Fact Sheet outlining detailed requirements and procedures associated with the PRN soil sampling process. Please review this included document.

Seed growers with questions regarding field eligibility, sampling requirements, or the collection process please feel free to contact WSPCP or DATCP staff. All other questions should be directed to DATCPphyto@wisconsin.gov or Jen Oestreich (715) 701-1375.

For more information regarding PRN, Soil Sampling Requirements, and the Soil Sample Report Form, please open the attached PDF documents attached to the email.

Post-Harvest Testing: New Diagnostic Application

The upcoming post-harvest testing season will look slightly different following the adoption of direct tuber testing (DTT) as an approved post-harvest assay in Wisconsin. Wisconsin seed growers will have the following post-harvest testing options available through WSPCP this fall: DTT, greenhouse/Hawaii grow-out, and latent variety ELISA testing. WSPCP staff will distribute a diagnostic application in the coming weeks accompanied by detailed instructions outlining on how to fill out the application to reflect seed lot diagnostic needs.

Although DTT is an approved post-harvest testing method by Wisconsin seed potato certification, approval is not widely accepted in other states or provinces. It is important to note that if a seed lot may be sold outside of Wisconsin, a traditional post-harvest test (ex: grow-out) is strongly recommended as some receiving states or provinces may not recognize DTT as an acceptable certification diagnostic test. Seed growers will have the option to select DTT as a secondary test to supplement their traditional testing results in these situations.

The diagnostic application will also include a section to request additional diagnostic services such as Bacterial Ring Rot or Late Blight. To further assist with planning and aid in the selection of the additional diagnostic services, a comprehensive reference document summarizing diagnostic requirements for movement of seed into other states or Canada will accompany the application. Understanding diagnostic needs earlier will allow WSPCP staff to better prepare for the testing, improve laboratory efficiencies, and ensure timely reporting of results.

WSPCP staff are available to answer any questions regarding the new diagnostic selection process and will continue to provide updates as DTT acceptance evolves. Each diagnostic application will be reviewed individually, and staff will follow up as needed to ensure selected

diagnostic tests meet the seed growers needs. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact WSPCP staff with any questions.

WSPCP Outreach in Rhinelander

WSPCP staff recently had the opportunity to work with students at the first-ever 1st Grade Tools Event at the School District of Rhinelander on April 23rd, 2026. Students learned how potatoes can be grown hydroponically and even got their hands dirty by “planting” tissue culture potato plantlets into a demonstration nutrient film technique (NFT) soilless system.

Along the way, staff explained how plants need the right balance of nutrients to grow and how pH plays an important role in nutrient uptake. The students became scientists themselves, testing the pH of common household items to discover whether they were acidic, neutral, or basic.

To wrap up, students learned how these tiny plantlets produce minitubers that are eventually planted in the field and make their way to the dinner table. Thanks to a generous donation from the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Grower Association (WPVGA), each student also went home with fun potato-themed memorabilia to remember the day.







In Remembrance of Trudy A. Bula



Trudy Ann Bula, age 78, of Antigo passed away July 2, 2026, at Aspirus Langlade Hospital surrounded by her family.

Trudy was born on March 27, 1948, in Antigo to late Stanley and Lucille (Holten) Benes.

On March 21, 1975, she was united in marriage to the love of her life, Kevin Bula, with whom she shared more than 51 wonderful years.

Trudy was a graduate from Antigo High School class of 1966. She went on to Langlade County Teachers College to embark on a long career as a dedicated educator. She received her bachelor's degree in teaching as well as her master's degree from UW-Stevens Point. She devoted 34 years to teaching, spending the majority of her career at Crestwood Elementary School. Trudy's passion for education and dedication to her students touched countless lives and left a lasting impact on her community.

Before beginning her teaching career, Trudy worked for several years alongside her mother and sister at Quinn's in Neva. It was there that her lifelong love of cooking began—a passion she joyfully shared with family and friends throughout her life.

Trudy found great happiness in tending her gardens. After retiring, she and Kevin established a daylily farm on their property, where she delighted in leading visitors through rows of vibrant blooms, sharing her knowledge and appreciation for each variety.

Together, Trudy and Kevin also developed a small maple syrup operation. Springtime meant tapping trees, collecting sap, and making syrup with the help of their children, grandchildren, family, and friends.

Trudy truly had a zest for life. She enjoyed golfing, attending the theater, entertaining family and friends at the Bula Barn, and traveling the world (particularly to her happy place in Longboat Key, FL).

Above all, Trudy treasured her family. She is survived by her beloved husband, Kevin; her two daughters, Andrea (Michael) Huss of Kaukauna and Katherine "Katie" Bula of Madison; her two grandchildren, Clay (Danielle) Huss and Megan Huss, both of De Pere; her sister, Julie (Bill) Brandt of Antigo; her brothers, Gary (Pat) Benes of Lewistown, Montana, and Marty (Peggy) Benes of Antigo; along with many cherished nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

Greenhouse Update

Greenhouse 4 was planted this week with it's second production cycle of 2026. Greenhouse 3 will be planted next week with it's second production cycle of 2026 and Greenhouse 2 in mid-August.





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Contact Us



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