

BADGER MEMO



July 2020

UW-Seed Farm Issue

The July edition of the Badger memo is brought to you by the UW-Seed Farm.

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2020 Planting

It has been a busy two months since planting began in early May. The seed program and farm staff put in long days and worked six and seven day weeks to get the seed in the ground. This was my first year planting potatoes and I found the experience very similar to planting corn and grain. No matter how well you are prepared before planting minor and major repairs are bound to happen along with weather delays. A big thanks to everyone in the seed program who put in the long hours to get the potatoes in the ground!



Above: The first day of planting May 12th, dawned cold and sunny with clear blue skies.

Growing Season Update



Above: A field of Atlantic potatoes flowering July 3rd.

The growing season started out cool and dry at the seed farm and progressed to hot and dry at the end of June. July began similar to late June with plenty of sun and heat. Overall, the crop emerged well throughout the farm and hilling was finished by July 3rd. Due to the application of pre-emergent herbicides there has not been a significant amount of weed pressure.

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Growing Season Update

The seed farm staff finished running irrigation lines last week and was able to begin running the pivot irrigation. To increase irrigation efficiency the seed farm staff will begin installing drop nozzles on their largest pivot. This upgrade is expected to save a significant amount of water and should result in increased water availability to the potato crop.

Scouting reports have indicated the threshold for Colorado Potato Beetles has reached its threshold in the field planted in early May. Insecticide application began during the last week of June and will continue as needed throughout the growing season.

In addition to scouting for weeds and insect pests the seed program inspectors began their weekly inspection of potatoes in June. As of last inspection some potato virus was found in the Atlantic field. Starting this year plants are rouged immediately in an effort to reduce the spread of potato virus.



Above: Irrigating a field of E1 potatoes July 4th 2020

New Seed Farm Staff

Prior to the beginning of the 2020 growing season eight new staff members were hired to help with greenhouse and field operation. New greenhouse staff members are: Pam Horneck, Bridger Flory, Savannah Seefeldt, and Matt Van Oepen. New field staff members include: Bob Arndt, Larry Hiltunen, Riley Hitchcock and Erik Grulke. All have been a big help the current seed farm staff.

Seed Farm Equipment Requests

The Seed Farm is interested in purchasing/obtaining the following pieces of equipment.

- Seed cutting machine
- Ten ton gravity box (with or without running gear)
- Tandem disc 18 to 20 feet wide