



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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Holiday Greetings - Dr. Amanda Gevens

I wish everyone a healthy and joyous holiday season! Thank you for your continued support of our Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program as we've undergone several changes in 2023. We look forward to seeing some of you at upcoming conferences including the Potato Expo in Austin Texas (Jan 10-11, 2024), the Wisconsin Seed Potato Improvement Association annual meeting in Antigo Wisconsin (Jan 31, 2024), or the UW Madison Division of Extension & Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association Educational Conference in Stevens Point Wisconsin (Feb 6-8, 2024).

Regards,

Amanda Gevens



1 - UW Starks Farm Field Day - July 20th, 2023





Winter Test Planting - Cole Lubinski

This year we continue to work with Twin Bridge Farms and Pioneer for our winter test planting. It was slow to start with a total of 4 rain days before Wisconsin could even get potatoes in the ground. Four days may not sound like much, but every day delayed is a day longer for growers to get results. Also, our time out there isn't cheap, so we try to be as efficient as possible. Aside from the rain, everything else went very well. The condition of the potatoes was better than average with the exception of some soft rot in select varieties, which was anticipated. Our dormancy breaking procedure continues to yield great results and every variety was either peeping or had 3 inch sprouts. The land we were allocated this year is far better than the previous year, with the only concerns being water and weed control. After looking at some of the states that planted before us, the weeds were already coming up like a carpet across the field. We are hoping they were able to get pre-emergence herbicide applied to our plot in a timely manner. There is only one well supplying the area we are in and it will take some diligent scheduling to get everyone the water they need. Inspectors will travel back out early January to conduct virus readings and the results will be relayed to growers as soon as possible.





Certification Tag Charge

Traditionally the Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program has covered the cost of printing certification tags for all Wisconsin seed potato certification growers. Recently, we experienced yet another increase in the cost of tag supplies. To help absorb these increase costs, we will be charging **3 cents per printed tag** starting with the 2023 harvested crop. I want to emphasize that this cost is only for tag supplies-tags and ink. The labor to print tags will continue to be supported by the Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program and through the generous support of WPVGA grants, maintenance and replacement of tag printers is covered.

We apologize for this additional cost when we have all seen so many other cost increases; but as we look to the future the Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program wants to ensure we can continue to provide high quality services. Your support of additional cost is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are happy to answer any additional questions. We hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season.

Testing Requirements for Trade within US & Canada

If you are importing potato seed to another state, please ensure that all testing requirements are met as select states have additional testing requirements other than the post-harvest winter grow-out.

- Colorado requires a late blight test and PLRV test in absence of visuals
- Idaho requires a BRR test and PLRV check (visual or ELISA)
- Montana does not allow seed import into certification
- Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North Dakota requires a PLRV check (visual or ELISA)
- Canada (including New Brunswick and PEI) requires BRR test and PLRV check

WSPCP Minitubers For Sale

In 2023, the Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program expanded greenhouse production with the goals of 1) Continuing to produce minitubers for the Starks farm in support of the new partnership with the Wisconsin Potato Coalition and 2) Selling surplus minitubers or fulfilling minituber orders for select varieties. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please visit our website at <https://seedpotato.russell.wisc.edu/lelah-starks-elite-foundation-seed-potato-farm-2/> or contact the WSPCP office (715)-623-4039. We would be happy to discuss options that are available to you.

Contact Us



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715-623-4039

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