



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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Waivers & Variances

To sell rejected lots within Wisconsin, please fill out the 'Waiver Request Form' on the DATCP seed potato certification website and send the form to Sara Ott via email to sara.ott@wisconsin.gov

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SeedPotatoCert.aspx

To sell rejected seed lots outside Wisconsin, you as the seller would need to contact the farm receiving the seed lot. The receiving farm would need to contact their state agricultural department and determine what paperwork is required for the seed lot to be shipped into the state.

If any commercial farms purchase a seed lot with PVY levels greater than 5% from out of state and grow in Wisconsin, please fill out the 'Waiver Request Form' on the DATCP seed potato certification website.

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SeedPotatoCert.aspx

To plant back a certified seed lot with a low level of PVY but higher than 0.5%, please reach out to WSPCP staff to see if the seed lot in question is eligible for a variance. Before requesting a variance, please look for any available seed with a virus level below 0.5%.

With this being an unprecedented year, our goal as a program is to work with all of you to ensure you have the necessary planting material and tools to have a successful 2025 season, while trying to minimize levels of PVY present in our seed growing region. We want to stress the

importance of planting seed lots with low levels of PVY to try and keep inoculum levels down on individual seed farms.

Direct Tuber Testing for Additional PHT

We are accepting 400 tuber samples for Direct Tuber Testing if needed following our challenging PHT season. If you're interested in having Direct Tuber Testing done for an additional PHT, please contact Josie Spurgeon at (715) 350-1086 or jspurgeon@wisc.edu to inquire.

2025 Spring Nuclear Seed Surplus List



Yields for select varieties were higher than expected during production cycles slated to fill current spring 2025 nuclear seed (minituber and seed piece) orders. This surplus nuclear seed is currently available for sale. Listed below is the varieties or breeding lines available:

Atlantic

Lamoka

Manistee

Mercury Russet

Plover Russet

Reveille Russet

W13103-2Y

If you are interested in obtaining nuclear seed of any of the varieties or breeding lines listed above, please reach out to:

Josie Spurgeon (715) 350-1086 or jspurgeon@wisc.edu

Brooke Babler at (608) 886-6352 or brooke.babler@wisc.edu

Either will be happy to discuss surplus availability. Surplus nuclear seed is available on a first come, first serve basis.

Greenhouse Update



Greenhouse 3 & 4 were planted in January and February and are doing well. Greenhouse 2 will be planted on February 26th. Recent upgrades to Greenhouse 2 include new shade cloth and thrip screen. Greenhouse 1 will be planted this spring.

WPVGA Hall of Fame Inductee - Kevin Bula



A big shout out and congratulations goes out to long time Field Inspector, Kevin Bula for being nominated and inducted into the WPVGA Hall of Fame. Kevin's vast knowledge and passion for Wisconsin seed potatoes goes unrivaled and we cannot thank Kevin enough for his 45 years of service to the program and growers. Congratulations and Thank You Kevin!

Honoring George Joseph Neuber



George worked at the UW Starks Seed Farm in Rhinelander and most recently was the driver of the Wisconsin Spudmobile. George passed away unexpectedly on February 2nd. Let's remember and honor George and those who have passed before him that were an integral part of our seed potato community.

Thank you to Dave Hafner for donating his time to snowplow at the Antigo Greenhouses!

Contact Us



Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Office

807 5th Ave

Antigo, WI 54409

715-623-4039

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