



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 Factsheet - DATCP

As the growing season progresses we would like to share a factsheet on Potato Rot Nematode developed by DATCP. Please review for some useful knowledge regarding this pathogen and ways to avoid introduction or spread of it on your farm. The link to the factsheet is included in the actual email for this newsletter edition.

If you have any questions regarding Potato Rot Nematode please reach out to Sara Ott.

Sara Ott - Sara.Ott@wisconsin.gov (608) 516-5486

Post Harvest Collection & Dormant Tuber Testing

- Corteva will be managing our winter test plots instead of Twin Bridge Farms. The winter test grow out will still be in Waialua. Pricing will be comparable to last year. We ask that you drop-off tuber samples at **Servco FS main office loading dock on Wednesday, Oct 15th between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm**. We will have staff available on site to collect the samples. Please call in advance if you cannot make the scheduled delivery window.
- Each winter test sample needs to include **exactly 400 tubers**, please be accurate on your count. We ask that you also ensure your winter test sample is comprised of **high-quality tubers** to receive the most accurate winter test results.
- You must submit **one 400-tuber sample for each 50 acres** comprising an individual seed lot. The maximum number of tubers required for any lot is 1600 or 4-400 tuber samples. The breakdown is as follows:

Seed Lot Size	No. of Samples
Up to 50 acres	1 (400 tubers)

51 to 100 acres	2 (800 tubers)
101 to 150 acres	3 (1200 tubers)
151 to more acres	4 (1600 tubers)

- We recommend that you collect **twice the number of tubers needed for each seed lot** and store extra tubers in the event a second tuber sample is required. Additionally, please store **TUBER SAMPLES AT ROOM TEMPERATURE** until they are turned over to WSPCP staff to keep them from going into deep dormancy. A few days before delivering tuber samples 'grade' the tuber samples down to a uniform-sized 400-tuber sample. Please use the provided mesh bags to store graded tuber samples and the zip ties to close the bag and attach identification tags. Please note, the mesh bags are to increase tuber skin exposure during the dormancy breaking period. Mesh bags, zip ties and identification tags will be delivered in the upcoming weeks. Please return any tags for lots that will not be sent to Hawaii.
- Handle each tuber sample individually - **400 tubers per bag even for lots with multiple samples**. We also ask that you pay close attention to the size of sample tubers. Tubers should be the **size of 'golf balls'**. Tubers that are too large clog the planter, while those smaller than 1 ½ inches often result in doubles. Since only 400 tubers will be planted, note that 2 plants diseased out of 400 is within Foundation tolerance (0.5%), but 2 diseased plants out of fewer samples containing less than 400 plants is not.
- **PVY latent, or non-expressing varieties tuber samples (GH grown) will be \$550.00 and PVY expressing varieties tuber samples (Hawaii field grown) will be \$450.00.** ELISA testing is included in the greenhouse grown cost of \$550.00. Any DTT testing will be an additional charge which is outlined below.
- We will be accepting tuber samples for **direct tuber testing (DTT)** this fall. **Testing can be performed on the tuber samples being submitted for the post-harvest grow out in the greenhouse or Hawaii, or if preferred a separate sample can be submitted.** Please store the tuber sample at ROOM TEMPERATURE until they are turned over to WSPCP staff. Samples need to be stored at room temperature 2-3 weeks prior to testing to ensure testing accuracy. Results will be sent out mid-late October depending on individual harvesting dates. WSPCP staff recommends DTT on any early generation seed lots or seed lots with elevated PVY levels during first inspection. Fall 2025 diagnostic testing prices: *PVY only IC-PCR 400 tuber sample (tested in 10-tuber subsamples) is \$475.00, or PVY Extracted-PCR 400 tuber sample (tested in 10-tuber subsamples) is*

\$600.00 with potential to test for PLRV for additional \$100.00. Note there is no diagnostic differences between testing options for PVY detection.

Greenhouse Update

WSPCP staff had a successful spring growing season with all three hydroponic greenhouses filled and minituber harvest spanning mid-February to early June. The fall growing cycle is currently underway with two greenhouses planted mid-July and the third greenhouse (GH2) scheduled to be planted August 19th. Traditionally only a spring production cycle was performed in greenhouse 2, but with the introduction of several new varieties into our production system the space is being utilized. Greenhouse 1, the traditional planted greenhouse, has been growing very well and is scheduled to be harvested early September.



1 - Greenhouse 2 first cycle



2 - Greenhouse 1 2025 season



3 - Greenhouse 4 second cycle

With a tremendous amount of help from Schroeder Farms, a structural addition has been erected to connect greenhouse 2 to the headhouse and greenhouses 3 and 4. In addition, this space allows for an indoor bathroom, controlled temperature storage area for mini tubers, additional storage and work space, an office/break room, and will house the newly donated CETS LLC. phytotron chamber. This chamber will allow WSPCP staff to optimize minituber production for varieties that yield poorly in the hydroponic systems.





We have also discovered a new and more effective and efficient way to apply Kool Ray, a liquid greenhouse shading concentrate to the greenhouse roofs to reduce overall greenhouse temperatures. Venture Ag Drones was able to apply Kool Ray to all four greenhouses in a fraction of the time, used less product, and provide a more even coverage than WSPCP staff have been able to achieve in the past.





PCN Sampling Update

We have utilized all PCN grant funding. If there are any additional testing needs, it is being offered at \$50 per acre.

Inspector Contact Info

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