



Selecting Potato Varieties in Michigan

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VARIETY SELECTION IS ESSENTIAL to the production of a top quality potato crop whether for commercial production or the home garden. The variety selected must be adapted to the soil and cultural conditions under which it is to be grown and it must be acceptable for the chosen market outlet.

The two accompanying tables describe some of the characteristics of several potato varieties.

Table 1 summarizes the characteristics of those varieties which have been available to the industry

for some time and for which considerable observations have been made.

Table 2 identifies characteristics for the newer releases where fewer observations have been made, and data as to their commercial application is limited.

These lists do not include all available potato varieties and are restricted only to those varieties which have been favorable to Michigan production and marketing.

Table 1. Characteristics of Established Potato Varieties.

Variety	Maturity	Skin Color	Dry Matter	Disease Resistance	Best Market Use	Remarks
KATAHDIN	Late	White	Med.	Mild mosaic Net necrosis	Fresh market Chip processing (home garden)	Wide range of adaptability to soil, climate and cultural conditions. Very susceptible to scab and should not be grown where known to be a problem.
KENNEBEC	Med.-late	White	High	Late blight Net necrosis	Chip processing (home garden)	Very susceptible to Verticillium wilt and should not be planted on soils known to have this problem.
MONONA	Medium	White	Low	Mild and rugose mosaics	Chip processing	Reconditions well for chips.
NORCHIP	Medium	White	High	Some to scab	Chip processing Fresh pack (home garden)	Sets heavy so suggest a spacing of 11-12". Tubers susceptible to late blight. Has short rest period.
NORGOLD RUSSET	Early-med.	Russet	Med.	Scab	Fresh market	Susceptible to hollow heart and blackleg.
NORLAND	Early	Red	Low	Some to scab	Fresh market (home garden)	Has been very susceptible to speckle leaf. Has good tuber shape. Red color intensity decreases with delayed harvest after maturity.
ONAWAY	Early	White	Low	Scab Late blight	Fresh market Poor processor (home garden)	Tubers susceptible to early blight. Suggest space of 8" to control over size and shape.
RUSSET BURBANK	Late	Russet	High	Some to scab	Baking, French fries, dry and frozen processing	Should not be grown on poorly drained and heavy soils. Can be rough and knobby.
SEBAGO	Late	White	Med.	Mild mosaic Late blight Some to scab	Fresh market Chip processing (home garden)	Good all purpose potato. Susceptible to blackleg under adverse planting conditions.
SUPERIOR	Early	White	Med.	Scab	Fresh market Chip processing (home garden)	Very good tuber shape and appearance.

Table 2. Newer Potato Variety Releases (1970-1975)

Variety	Year Released	Release Agency	Characteristics	Tuber Type	Michigan Use*
CASCADE	1970	USDA	Late maturity. Resistant to leafroll and Verticillium wilt. Storage decay has been a problem.	Oblong, white skin.	Not recommended because of storage breakdown.
SHURCHIP	1970	Nebraska	Medium maturity. Resistant to common scab and tolerant to Fusarium and Verticillium wilts. Susceptible to late blight.	Round to oblong, slightly russeted.	Commercial trial.
SIOUX	1970	Nebraska	Medium maturity. Resistant to scab. Susceptible to wilts and late blight.	Round red, slightly scaly russet.	Limited commercial trial for red market
ABNAKI	1971	USDA, Maine and New York	Late maturity. Resistant to Verticillium wilt, mild mosaic, leafroll and tuber symptoms of net necrosis. Tendency to oversize. Hollow-heart a problem.	Tubers round to oblong and somewhat flattened.	Not recommended because of hollow-heart.
HUDSON	1973	New York	Late maturity and comparable to Katahdin. Susceptible to scab like Katahdin. Resistant to golden nematode.	Rounded with white skin. Large tubers can be rough.	Commercial trial. Suggest close spacing 8-9".
NAMPA	1973	Idaho and USDA	Late maturity—very high dry matter. Similar to R. Burbank in Verticillium wilt and blight susceptibility but more resistant to common scab and net necrosis. Immune to PVX. Produces off type tubers.	Long russet	Limited commercial trial
NOOKSACK	1973	Washington State and USDA	Resistance to late blight, scab, Rhizoctonia and Verticillium wilt. Some tolerance to early blight. Some growth crack and hollow heart. High specific gravity. Has long rest period.	Oblong shape with russet skin.	Observation only.
TARGHEE	1973	Idaho and USDA	Late maturity. Resistant to scab, Verticillium wilt, and tuber early blight. Immune to PVX. Similar to Russet Burbank in yield and dry matter but superior in percent No. 1's.	Long russet	Limited commercial trial
SNOWCHIP	1974	Alaska and USDA	Medium to high total solids. Good keeping quality. Good chips at harvest and after 20-30 days reconditioning at 70 F.	Oval to oblong with very shallow eyes. Skin light buff color.	Observation only.
WISCHIP	1974	Wisconsin and Frito Lay	Midseason maturity. Tolerant to scab. High chipping quality. Moderate yielding. Very susceptible to speckle leaf.	Round white skin has slight netting.	Limited commercial trial
BELLISLE	1974	New Brunswick, Canada	Late maturity and high dry matter. Some resistance to scab, late blight and Fusarium storage decay. Susceptible to Verticillium wilt.	Oblong, white flesh, slight net on skin.	Observation only.
BISON	1974	North Dakota	Medium to late maturity, with low specific gravity. Foliage has very characteristic type being very upright early in season and very deep foliage color.	Red skin with shallow eyes. Very good skin color.	Limited commercial trial

*Observation only = generally no substantial Michigan data.

Limited commercial trial = some Michigan data which indicates merit for small planting to evaluate its commercial acceptability.

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