



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FALL POTATO VARIETIES 2016 SAN LUIS VALLEY, COLORADO (Revised September 21, 2016)

This report provides the results of a special survey of potato growers in the San Luis Valley, which was conducted to evaluate potato varieties planted for the 2016 fall crop. The survey was conducted by the USDA/NASS Mountain Region Field Office with funding from the Colorado State University, San Luis Valley Research Center. Data was collected from potato growers by return mail or by telephone interviews with enumerators. The survey was not sampled to provide a direct expansion of seeded acreage by variety or a measure of the sampling error. Responses to this year's survey covered 15,451 acres, which was 30 percent of the estimated 50,900 total acres planted in the San Luis Valley.

**Russet varieties** accounted for 83.9 percent of the reported acres of all potatoes planted in the San Luis Valley for the 2016 crop, compared with 69.7 percent last year. **Yellow Flesh varieties** were planted on 7.6 percent of the total acreage, which was down from 13.8 percent in 2015. **Red varieties** represented 5.3 percent of the total, a decrease of 2.4 percentage points from the previous year. The remaining 3.2 percent of the total was made up of **White, Fingerlings, and Other varieties**.

**Russet Norkotah**, continued its ranking as the most popular variety among producers by being planted on 37.9 percent of the total potato acreage and accounting for 45.1 percent of all russet potatoes. **Norkotah Selection 296** is the most popular, accounting for 13.8 percent of the total acres planted overtaking **Norkotah Selection 3** as the favorite which only accounted for 9.3 percent of the planted acres; **Norkotah 278** had 6.5 percent of the planted acres; **Norkotah Selection 8** claimed only 3.8 percent of the acreage; and all **Other Norkotah** selections totaled 4.4 percent. The **Canela Russet** variety ranked second among russet varieties in 2016 by being planted on 11.9 percent of the total acreage and representing 14.2 percent of all russet varieties. The **Classic Russet** was the third most popular russet variety, at 5.4 percent of the total acreage and 6.5 percent of all russet potatoes. **Tebina Russet** came in fourth with 5.3 percent of all acres. **Teton Russet** ranked fifth among russets with 4.9 percent of the total acreage. **Rio Grande Russet** was next with 3.7 percent, and **Centennial Russet** accounted for 3.2 percent of all potatoes planted. All **Other Russet varieties** were planted on 11.7 percent of the total acreage in the San Luis Valley.

**Red varieties** accounted for 5.3 percent of the planted acreage in 2016. The leading variety, **Chieftain**, was planted on 1.9 percent of the total potato acreage. All **Other Red varieties** totaled 3.4 percent.

**Alegria**, a yellow variety, was planted on 3.0 percent of the total acreage and represented 39.6 percent of all yellow flesh varieties, while **Yukon Gold** accounted for 2.9 percent of the total acreage and 38.2 percent of all yellow flesh potatoes. **Other Yellow Flesh varieties** totaled 1.7 percent of all potatoes planted.

**Total White, Fingerlings and Other varieties**, including research varieties, and other specialty type potatoes, comprised the remaining 3.2 percent of the total potato acreage. No particular variety or type received enough reports to publish separately.

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Variety	2012 Crop	2013 Crop	2014 Crop	2015 Crop	2016 Crop	
	Reported Percent of All Potatoes				Reported Percent of All Potatoes	Reported Percent of Varietal Group
	Percent 1/				Percent 1/	
<b>Russet Varieties:</b>						
Russet Norkotah.....	52.5	51.5	40.3	35.3	37.9	45.1
Norkotah 296.....	...	3.2	4.0	7.0	13.8	16.4
Norkotah 3.....	25.4	28.8	23.4	13.0	9.3	11.1
Norkotah 278.....	...	...	1.5	1.8	6.5	7.7
Norkotah 8.....	10.7	9.5	7.2	9.7	3.8	4.6
Norkotah, all other 2/.....	16.4	10.0	4.2	3.8	4.4	5.3
Canela Russet.....	8.7	9.6	9.6	10.5	11.9	14.2
Classic Russet.....	4.3	7.2	8.3	5.9	5.4	6.5
Tebina Russet.....	...	...	...	...	5.3	6.3
Teton Russet.....	...	...	0.9	...	4.9	5.9
Rio Grande Russet.....	4.7	4.5	6.3	2.5	3.7	4.4
Centennial Russet.....	5.0	2.6	3.8	4.9	3.2	3.8
Other Russet 3/.....	12.8	8.6	7.4	10.6	11.7	13.9
<b>TOTAL RUSSET.....</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>84.0</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Red Varieties:</b>						
Chieftain.....	...	...	...	...	1.9	35.6
Other Red 4/.....	D	D	6.8	7.7	3.4	64.4
<b>TOTAL RED.....</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Yellow Flesh Varieties:</b>						
Alegria.....	...	...	0.8	...	3.0	39.6
Yukon Gold.....	1.9	2.9	1.8	2.6	2.9	38.2
Other Yellow 5/.....	3.1	6.1	5.7	11.2	1.7	22.2
<b>TOTAL YELLOW FLESH.....</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>White and Other Varieties:</b>						
<b>TOTAL WHITE, FINGERLINGS and OTHER 6/.....</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/ Other Norkotahs for 2016 include Norkotah 112, Norkotah Standard, and others.

3/ Other Russets for 2016 include Fortress Russet, Mercury Russet, Mesa Russet, Russet Nugget, and others.

4/ Other Reds for 2016 include Cherry Red, Ciklamen, Colorado Rose, Desiree, Modoc, and others.

5/ Other Yellows for 2016 include Latona, Satina, and others.

6/ Other White and Other Varieties for 2016 include Asterix, Masquarade, Laratte, Mozart, and others.

... Indicates varietal percentage is very minor or not available.

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.