

COLORADO

FALL POTATO VARIETIES -- 1999 CROP



Issued Cooperatively By:
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This report provides the results of a special Potato Variety Survey of potato growers in the San Luis Valley for the 1999 crop. The survey was funded by the San Luis Valley Research Center and was conducted by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. Questionnaires were mailed to potato growers in late October 1999. Responses to this year's survey covered only 42 percent of the 77,200 acres planted for the 1999 crop compared with 65 percent coverage in the 1998 survey. While coverage is much less than a year earlier, the distribution of varieties is believed to be reasonably accurate. The data for 1995 was obtained through the Potato Objective Yield Survey (POY) conducted by NASS. The POY survey was discontinued for Colorado in 1996.

Russet varieties accounted for 86.1 percent of the 77,200 acres of all potatoes planted in the San Luis Valley for the 1999 crop. **Red varieties** accounted for 4.4 percent. The remaining 9.5 percent was made up of **yellow flesh, white, and other** varieties.

Russet Norkotah, the most popular variety, was planted on 42.0 percent of the total potato acreage and accounted for 48.8 percent of all russet potatoes. The **Russet Nugget** was second, representing 29.0 percent of the total acreage and 33.7 percent of all russet varieties. The **Centennial Russet** variety ranked third in 1999 by being planted on 7.6 percent of the total acreage and representing 8.8 percent of all russet varieties. At its peak during the 1984-88 period, Centennial Russets accounted for more than two-thirds of the total fall potato acreage. **Crestone Russet, Ranger Russet, Russet Research, and other russet** varieties were planted on 7.5 percent of the total acreage.

Sangre was the most popular red variety planted in 1999. While it only accounted for 2.5 percent of the total acreage, it did represent 56.8 percent of all red varieties planted. **Red McClure** was the next significant individual red variety reported. It accounted for only 0.2 percent of all potatoes but 4.6 percent of the total red varieties. **Red Research and other red** varieties were planted on 1.7 percent of the total acreage.

Yukon Gold, a yellow flesh variety, was planted on 1.4 percent of the total acreage. Numerous other Yellow Flesh, White, and other varieties were planted on 8.1 percent of the acreage. The other varieties includes some research and other specialty type potatoes.

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Potato Varieties: Percent of Total Planted Acreage, Colorado, 1995-99 ^{1/}

Variety	1995 Crop	1996 Crop	1997 Crop	1998 Crop	1999 Crop	
	Percent of All Potatoes				Percent of All Potatoes	Percent of Varietal Group
	Percent				Percent	
Russet Varieties:						
Russet Norkotah	36.2	35.6	37.6	41.6	42.0	48.8
Russet Nugget	27.0	34.0	38.8	35.1	29.0	33.7
Centennial Russet	20.5	15.0	12.3	9.3	7.6	8.8
Crestone Russet .....	...	...	0.2	1.0	1.4	1.6
Russet Research .....	...	1.6	1.4	0.6	1.2	1.4
Ranger Russet .....	...	0.7	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.4
Other Russet	2.8	3.3	1.9	1.2	3.7	4.3
TOTAL RUSSET .....	...	90.2	92.5	89.1	86.1	100.0
Red Varieties:						
Sangre	3.8	4.4	4.4	2.7	2.5	56.8
Red McClure .....	...	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	4.6
Red Research .....	...	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.7	15.9
Other Red .....	...	0.7	0.4	1.4	1.0	22.7
TOTAL RED .....	...	5.7	5.4	4.4	4.4	100.0
Yellow Flesh, White, and Other Varieties:						
Yukon Gold .....	...	...	...	3.4	1.4	14.7
Other Yellow Flesh & White .....	...	4.1	2.1	3.1	8.1	85.3
TOTAL YELLOW FLESH, WHITE, and OTHER .....	...	4.1	2.1	6.5	9.5	100.0
TOTAL .....	...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

^{1/} Data for 1995 taken from the NASS Potato Objective Yield Survey and is presented for comparison with 1996-99 data for major varieties.

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