

CHECK-TESTING FOR VIRUS Y AND LEAF-ROLL IN SEED POTATOES WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO METHODS OF INCREASING PRECISION WITH THE A6-LEAF TEST FOR VIRUS Y

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Zusammenfassung, Résumé, p. 12

SUMMARY

The inclusion of the Igel-Lange colour test and the A6-leaf test, for potato leaf-roll and potato virus Y respectively, in the regulations governing seed-potato certification in Switzerland has proved most helpful. The application of the A6-leaf test is described in detail.

Experiments showed that pigmented sprouts formed in diffuse light at 20°–24°C during a pre-sprouting period of 21–28 days are most suitable for the detection of virus Y in this test. Sap from sprouts gave higher lesion counts and greater accuracy than sap from tubers.

It is easier to use squeezed sprouts for rubbing than the cut surface of sprouts, but reasonable accuracy can be achieved with both methods.

1. INTRODUCTION

In many countries, regulations governing seed-potato certification now include methods to be used for virus testing. In Switzerland, the Igel-Lange colour test and the A6 test, using detached leaves of *Solanum demissum* × *Aquila hybrid A6* (KÖHLER, 1953), have proved very useful as rapid methods for the detection respectively of potato leaf roll and potato virus Y in the tubers. Modifications to and experience with these tests are reported here and will form the subject of further papers.

2. METHODS

2.1. Virus tests used in Switzerland

The aim of every seed-potato grower is to produce vigorous seed giving high yields. Such seed must be practically free from virus. In countries where crops are invaded by aphids relatively late, field inspection alone is sufficient, followed eventually by early haulm-killing and harvesting. In Switzerland, only regions above 800 metres, where aphids are less numerous, can be considered as really suitable for seed-potato production. On land below this level growers must expect virus infection every year even though only high grade stocks of seed are used for multiplication, care is taken to rogue out infected plants and the crop is harvested early. Since primary infection

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cannot be eliminated by continuous roguing or reliably detected by field inspection¹, the granting of a certificate must, under Swiss conditions, depend upon the result of virus tests on the harvested tubers. Each crop has to be tested for leaf-roll (Igel-Lange colour test) and/or virus Y (A6-leaf test) before it can be sold. Certificates are only granted to crops with below a certain limit of virus infection. The tuber samples for the Igel-Lange colour test and the A6-leaf test are taken from the crop after haulm-killing. Samples of 60 tubers (50 tubers tested) are taken from fields up to 2 ha in area, a further sample of 50 tubers being taken for each additional 1 ha. Seed is automatically certified by the competent Agricultural Experimental Station if the percentage of virus infection is below the critical limits for Class A and B respectively².

In cases where the percentage of infection (determined on 50 tubers) exceeds the critical limits, a further sample of 200 tubers is required. The result of this second examination determines certification, declassification or elimination.

TABLE I. Seed-potato production, renewal of seed, and potato yields in Switzerland

Year <i>Jahr</i> <i>Année</i>	Renewal of seed as % of total potato area ¹	Swiss seed used as % of total certified-seed requirement ²	Class A as % of total seed production (area) ³	National av. yield; all size grades (metric tons/ha) ⁴
1945-51	27	35	15,7	18,3
1952-56	38	38	32,5	22,5
1957-60	45	55	64,4	28,4
1961	55	65	75,0	30,4
1962	60	65	75,0	27,5
1963	60	67	89,3	32,8
1964	58	87	91,6	31,4

¹ Erneuerung mit Pflanzgut in % der Gesamtanbaufläche – renouvellement du plant en % de l'étendue totale en pommes de terre.

² Schweiz: Pflanzguterzeugung in % des Gesamtbedarfes an anerkanntem Pflanzgut – plants suisses utilisés en % des besoins totaux en plants certifiés.

³ Anteil der Klasse A in % der gesamten Pflanzgutproduktion (Fläche) – % de classe A par rapport à la production totale de plants (surface).

⁴ Ertrag im Landesdurchschnitt; alle Knollengrößen (t/ha) – production moyenne nationale; tous calibres (t. métr. /ha).

TABELLE I. *Pflanzkartoffelerzeugung, Erneuerung des Pflanzgutes und Kartoffelerträge in der Schweiz*
TABLEAU I. *Production de plants de pomme de terre, renouvellement du plant et rendements en pommes de terre en Suisse*

¹ The result of the two field inspections has only provisional character, but a field once accepted for Class B cannot be classified in Class A later even if the percentage of virus in the crop is below the critical limit for Class A.

Class A: up to 0,25% infected plants (leaf-roll, visible mosaic) at field inspection, fixed dates for haulm-killing or haulm-pulling, based on observations of aphid development.

Class B: up to 1,0% infected plants (leaf-roll, visible mosaic) at field inspection, no fixed dates for haulm-killing or haulm-pulling, but very often done spontaneously 2 weeks after dates for Class A.

² Critical limits for percentage virus in the crop determined in laboratory tests: variable depending on variety, year and class.

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The Agricultural Research Stations at Zurich-Oerlikon and Lausanne, which control seed certification, examine each year approximately 550.000 tubers by the Igel-Lange colour test and 575.000 tubers by the A6-leaf test. Virus Y-resistant varieties are only examined by the Igel-Lange colour test. Tests must be made during the period August 15th to November 15th. The cost of collecting samples and testing increases the price of the seed by Fr. 0,25/100 kg (selling price Fr. 40–45/100 kg, depending on variety).

The introduction of systematic virus testing of all seed-potato stocks prior to sale has been of great benefit in removing difficulties previously experienced in selling Swiss seed. The certified seed-potato area rose from 1.915 to 3.727 ha between 1953 and 1964 and the crop from 18.520 to 53.700 tons. During the same period, great success was achieved in the production of early-harvested Class-A seed which amounted to 91,6 % of seed certified in 1964. The total area under potatoes in Switzerland, in 1964, was 43.000 ha, including 3.727 ha of certified seed. TABLE I shows some aspects of recent developments in Swiss seed production.

2.2. Improved A6-leaf test

Observations by NIENHAUS (1960) on the possibility of detecting mosaic virus in tubers led to the present investigation which had the object of improving the procedure for large-scale testing.

The method at present used for the A6-leaf test (KELLER and BÉRCES, 1962) is as

FIG. 1
Rindite treatment; the liquid is poured on filter paper
inserted in a tube of wire netting

ABB. 1

Rinditebehandlung; die Flüssigkeit wird auf Filterpapier gegossen, das in einer Röhre aus Drahtgeflecht steckt

FIG. 1

Traitemennt au mélange Rindite; le liquide est versé sur un papier filtre qui se trouve dans un tube en fil de fer



FIG. 2

Aluminium plate with small strip of crêpe rubber as pad for the filter paper; the A6 leaves are dusted with carborundum powder and then moistened by spraying with water

ABB. 2

Aluminiumplatte mit Schaumgummistreifen als Unterlage für den Filterpapierstreifen; die aufgelegten A6-Blätter werden mit Karborundumpuder bestäubt und danach mit der Spritze befeuchtet

FIG. 2

Planche d'aluminium couverte d'une bande de caoutchouc mousse servant de support au papier filtre; les feuilles A6 sont saupoudrées de carborundum et ensuite humectées avec un pulvérisateur à eau

follows: to break dormancy, the tubers are treated (from 4 weeks after haulm-killing onwards) with Rindite¹ in a tightly closed cardboard container (FIG. 1). The tubers are then pre-sprouted at 24°C under diffuse lighting, for a period of at least 3 weeks, by which time sprouts are about 1 cm long. A strip of filter paper carrying 10 A6 leaves is placed on a piece of crêpe-rubber sheet lying on an aluminium plate slightly wider than the rubber (FIG. 2). The leaves are dusted with carborundum (500 mesh) and lightly moistened by spraying with water. The crêpe rubber is necessary in order to prevent severe injury during the inoculation of the leaves. The A6 leaves should be mature but not too old. The sprouts of the rose end of the tuber are squeezed (FIG. 3) on the aluminium plate opposite the corresponding A6 leaf and then gently rubbed on it.

After rinsing the inoculated leaves (10 together) with tap water (FIG. 4) the filter paper is placed in special plastic dishes, developed by the Nederlandse Algemene Keuringsdienst voor landbouwzaden en aardappelpootgoed (NAK), Wageningen, Netherlands. A full dish holds 5 strips of filter paper with 50 leaves. After placing the dish in a plastic bag it is exposed to continuous fluorescent light of 1.000 to 1.500 lux (FIG. 5). The temperature is held at 23°–25°C for virus Y and 18°–20°C for virus A.

¹ Rindite: 7 vol. ethylene chlorohydrin
3 vol. 1,2-dichloroethane
1 vol. carbon tetrachloride

Application: 10 ml per 10 litres of container volume for 48 hours at 24 C.

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FIG. 3

Sprouts from the rose end are squeezed on the aluminium plate opposite the corresponding A6 leaf and then gently rubbed on it

ABB. 3

Die Keime am Kronenende werden auf der Aluminiumplatte gequetscht und dann auf das gegenüberliegende A6-Blatt sachte eingerieben

FIG. 3

Les germes de la couronne sont écrasés sur la planche d'aluminium en face d'une feuille A6 et alors frottés délicatement sur celle-ci

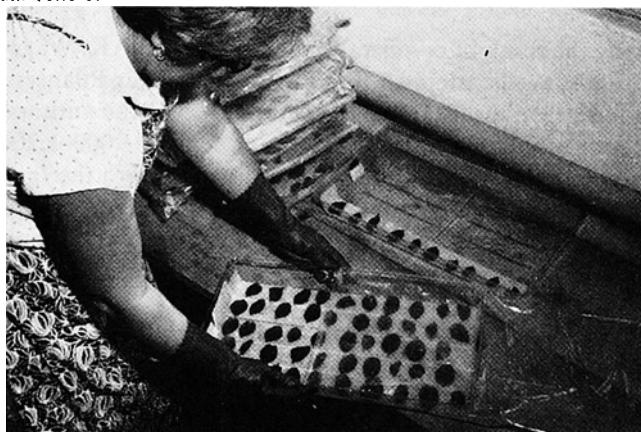


FIG. 5

Plastic dishes containing the inoculated A6 leaves are exposed for 7 days to continuous light at 23–25 °C

ABB. 5

Die Plastikschalen mit den infizierten A6-Blättern werden während 7 Tagen bei Temperaturen von 23–25 °C einer Dauerbeleuchtung ausgesetzt

FIG. 5

Les plateaux en matière plastique contenant les feuilles A6 inoculées sont entreposés pendant sept jours à la température de 23–25 °C et à une forte luminosité constante

FIG. 4

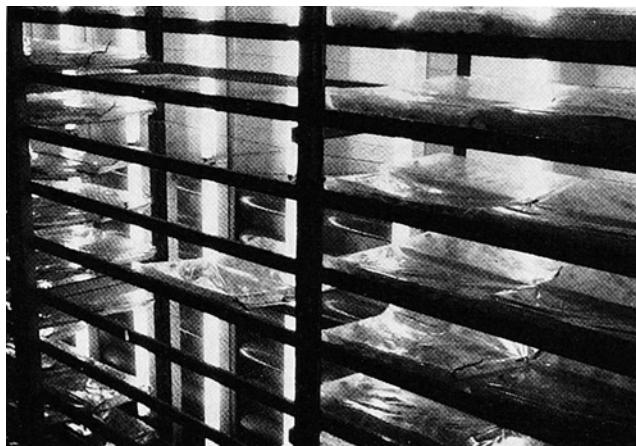
The filter paper is placed in NAK-plastic dishes which are then inserted into plastic bags

ABB. 4

Der Filterpapierstreifen wird in die NAK-Plastikschaale eingelegt; danach wird die Schale in einen Plastikbeutel eingeschlossen

FIG. 4

Le papier filtre est placé dans un plateau en matière plastique (type NAK); alors le plateau est introduit dans un sac en plastique transparent



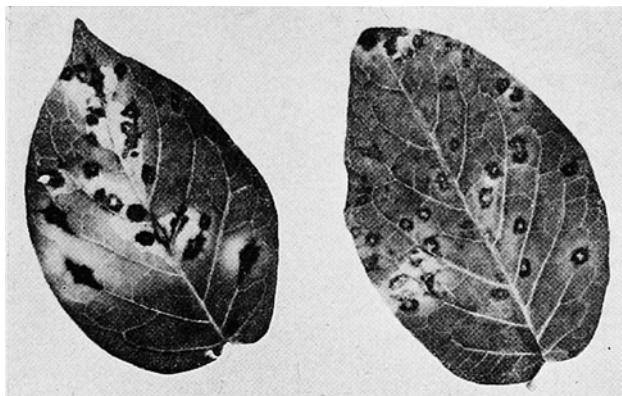


FIG. 6
Typical ring-shaped symptoms of
virus Y on A6

ABB. 6
Typische ringförmige Symptome
von Virus Y auf A6
FIG. 6
Symptômes typique sannulaires du
virus Y sur feuilles A6

A relative humidity of 90–100% can be maintained in the plastic bags for 7 days, i.e. until scoring (FIG. 6).

The method described is partly the result of co-operation between the NAK, Wageningen, the Landessaatzuchtanstalt, Weihenstephan, the Bundesanstalt für Pflanzenschutz in Vienna, the Station fédérale d'essais agricoles, Lausanne, and the authors. When it is applied in practice we estimate that one person can handle 1.000–1.200 tubers in a 9-hour day. This is a high figure and similar to that attained with the Igel-Lange colour test. The work is greatly facilitated by establishing groups of perhaps three people for squeezing the sprouts, inoculating the leaves and preparing the aluminium plates, as well as picking the A6 leaves.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Effect of pre-treating the tubers

NIENHAUS (1960) stated that it is necessary to break dormancy in order to identify virus Y in the tuber. Using pieces from the rose end of the tuber for inoculation, NIENHAUS (1962) obtained higher lesion counts than with sap from squeezed sprouts, which contained inhibitors. DE BOKX (1964) found the reverse of this. NIENHAUS (1962) and VULIĆ and ARENZ (1963) showed that, as tubers develop, the infectivity of their sap decreases so much that diagnosis while dormancy continues becomes impossible. Our work has shown that, after dormancy is broken with Rindite, certain light and temperature conditions and the duration of the pre-sprouting period greatly influence the infectivity of various sap extracts. The accuracy of virus-Y diagnosis by means of the A6-leaf test is greatly influenced by these factors.

Experiments with the variety *Bintje* on the influence of pre-treatment were carried out using:

- a. pale sprouts produced in darkness at 20°–24°C;
- b. pigmented sprouts produced at 20°–24°C under 1.500–2.000 lux of continuous fluorescent lighting;

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- c. pale sprouts produced in darkness at 28°C;
- d. pale sprouts produced in darkness at 15°C.

After 14, 21 and 28 days (in the case of treatment d also at 35 days) squeezed sprouts from the rose end of 200 tubers of each treatment were used for inoculation. After re-growth of the sprouts, the rose end was planted in the glasshouse and sap from the resultant leaves tested for virus Y on detached leaves of A6 as a check. The total number of plants reacting in the A6-leaf test at this time is taken as 100%.

TABLE 2. Accuracy of the A6-leaf test for virus Y in relation to sprout formation and length of pre-sprouting period

Length of pre-sprouting period ¹	Sprouts - Keime - germes							
	a. pale ² (20°-24°C)		b. pigmented ³ (20°-24°C)		c. pale ² (28°C)		d. pale ² (15°C)	
	sprout length ⁴ (mm)	% infection detected ⁵	sprout length ⁴ (mm)	% infection detected ⁵	sprout length ⁴ (mm)	% infection detected ⁵	sprout length ⁴ (mm)	% infection detected ⁵
14 days - Tage - jours	9,9	83,3	9,1	83,3	10,4	61,5	-	-
21 "	14,1	100	11,3	100	14,3	100	13,8	54,5
28 "	22,5	100	21,3	95,7	22,7	87,5	25,1	69,5
35 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,0	87,5

Significance for % infection detected (for tests of significance values were transformed into arc sin √ percentage): - Signifikanz für % nachgewiesene Infektionen (die Prüfung auf Signifikanz wurde nach Transformation der Werte in arc sin √ % nachgewiesene Infektionen vorgenommen): - Signification pour le % des infections décelées (l'examen statistique a été fait après transformation des valeurs en arc sin √ pourcentage):

14 days - Tage - jours: treatment c vs. a and b at 1% level - Verfahren c vs. a und b gesichert bei 1% - traitement c contre a et b au niveau 1%.

21 days - Tage - jours: treatment d vs. all others at 1% level - Verfahren d vs. alle andern gesichert bei 1% - traitement d contre tous les autres au niveau 1%.

28 days - Tage - jours: treatment b vs. a at 5% level - Verfahren b vs. a gesichert bei 5% - traitement b contre a au niveau 5%.

treatment c and d vs. a and b at 1% level - Verfahren c und d vs. a und b gesichert bei 1% - traitement c et d contre a et b au niveau 1%.

¹Dauer der Vorkeimperiode - durée de prégermination.

²Dunkelkeime - pâles.

³Lichtkeime - pigmentés.

⁴Keimlänge - longueur des germes.

⁵Infection detected with sprout sap as % of that detected with leaf sap - % nachgewiesene Infektionen, d.h. durch Keimbabreibung nachgewiesene Infektionen in % der durch Blattsäfte nachgewiesenen Infektionen - % infection décelée, c.-à-d. infections décelées par inoculation de jus de germes en % des infections décelées par inoculation de jus de feuilles.

TABELLE 2. Genauigkeit des A6-Testes für Virus Y in Abhängigkeit von Keimbildung und Dauer der Vorkeimperiode

TABLEAU 2. Précision du test A6 pour le virus Y en relation avec la formation des germes et la durée de la période de prégermination

The figures in TABLE 2 show that pre-sprouting for 14 days soon after harvesting gave inconclusive results. Pre-sprouting for 21 days at a temperature of 20°–24°C definitely increased accuracy. With low-temperature pre-sprouting, inoculation with squeezed sprouts gave only 54.5% of the infection detected by the A6-leaf test on leaf sap after tuber indexing. Comparing length of sprouts one sees that this factor is less important than the duration of pre-sprouting and temperature. Holding tubers at 20°–24°C for 28 days still gave good results but the higher temperature of 28°C appeared to be deleterious (DE BOKX (1964) also found this at 30°C). The low temperature of 15°C still gave inconclusive results after long pre-sprouting, probably due to low virus activity. The use of pale or pigmented sprouts appeared to have no influence on the results. NIENHAUS (1961/62) found pigmented sprouts better, and DE BOKX (1964) noted higher virus activity in pigmented sprouts than in pale sprouts formed in darkness. Pigmented sprouts formed in diffuse light are easier to handle than pale sprouts as they do not break off as easily during squeezing. It appears, therefore, that pigmented sprouts, developed in diffuse light at a temperature of 20°–24°C during a pre-sprouting period of 21–28 days, are most suitable for detecting virus Y by means of the A6-leaf test.

3.2. Effect of method of inoculation

NIENHAUS (1960) used tuber pieces cut tangentially from the heel end. The cortical tissue of these was removed in order to prevent an inhibiting effect. The remaining tissue, containing vascular bundles and forming an imprint, was used for inoculation. He obtained good results with this method using tobacco as a test plant for viruses X, Y and A. For various reasons tobacco is not the best plant for routine testing on a large scale. Different workers, such as ARENZ and VULIČ (1961), DE BOKX (1961) and KELLER and BÉRCES (1962) tried to improve the method by inoculating leaves of the *Solanum demissum* + *Aquila hybrid* A6. These authors used, as inoculum, the fresh-cut surface of tuber pieces taken from the rose end, the expressed sap from sprouts or the squeezed sprouts themselves. Continuing our attempts to develop a rational working method, we tried the following ways of inoculation in 1963/64, using early-harvested tubers of the varieties *Sirtema* and *Bintje* (FIG. 7):

- a. sprout from rose end cut across with a razor blade at its widest point and the cut surface used for rubbing the A6 leaf;
- b. rose end of the tuber (including the same sprout as in a) cut off tangentially. The cut surface of the tuber and one piece of the sprout are used for inoculation;
- c. sprout from rose end squeezed and used for inoculation (Standard Method);
- d. surface of the cut piece from the rose end (as treatment b) used alone.

The tubers (100 per treatment per variety) were pre-sprouted for three weeks in diffuse light at a room temperature varying from 20°–24°C. The details of the inoculation technique are given above. The checking of these results using the re-sprouted eye of the rose end in the tuber-indexing method (including the A6-leaf test with leaf sap) was carried out in the glasshouse. The total number of plants reacting in the A6-leaf test at that time is taken as 100%.

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TABLE 3. Effect of different inoculation methods on the accuracy of the A6-leaf test for virus Y

Variety Sorte - Variété	Treatment - Verfahren Traitement	Number of lesions p. leaf unit (L.U.) ¹	Accuracy % (inocula- tion with leaf sap + 100) ²
<i>Bintje</i>	a. Sprout, cut across ³	8,4	97,0
	b. Cut-tuber surface ⁴	1,3	72,3
	c. Squeezed sprouts ⁵	2,2	84,8
	d. Surface of rose-end piece ⁶	0,8	69,7
	LSD 5% for number of lesions (L.U.) ⁷	1,9	
	LSD 1% for number of lesions (L.U.) ⁷	2,6	
<i>Sirtema</i>	a. Sprout, cut across ³	12,4	96,8
	b. Cut-tuber surface ⁴	5,1	92,6
	c. Squeezed sprouts ⁵	10,0	98,9
	d. Surface of rose-end piece ⁶	2,5	78,9
	LSD 5% for number of lesions (L.U.) ⁷	3,3	
	LSD 1% for number of lesions (L.U.) ⁷	4,6	

Significance for Accuracy (for tests of significance values were transformed into arc sin $\sqrt{\text{percentage}}$): – Signifikanz für Genauigkeit in % (die Prüfung auf Signifikanz wurde nach Transformation der Werte in arc sin $\sqrt{\text{Genauigkeit in \%}}$ vorgenommen): – Signification pour la précision en % (l'examen statistique a été fait après la transformation des valeurs en arc sin $\sqrt{\text{pourcentage}}$):

Bintje: treatment a vs. all others at 1% level – Verfahren a vs. alle andern gesichert bei 1% – traitement a contre tous les autres au niveau 1%.

treatment c vs. b and d at 1% level – Verfahren c vs. b und d gesichert bei 1% – traitement c contre b et d au niveau 1%.

Sirtema: treatment c vs. all others at 1% level – Verfahren c vs. alle andern gesichert bei 1% – traitement c contre tous les autres au niveau 1%.

treatment a vs. b and d at 1% level – Verfahren a vs. b und d gesichert bei 1% – traitement a contre b et d au niveau 1%.

treatment b vs. d at 1% level – Verfahren b vs. d gesichert bei 1% – traitement b contre d au niveau 1%.

¹ Leaf unit (L.U.) – The total number of lesions from one A6 leaf divided by the product of length ... width in cm of the A6 leaf, i.e. 30 lesions: (4 ... 3 cm) = 2,5 lesions per L.U. Since not all A6 leaves used are of the same size, the calculation of lesions per L.U. gives comparable results.

² Anzahl Läsionen pro Blatteinheit (L.U.); Blatteinheit (L.U.) = Gesamtzahl der Läsionen eines Blattes, dividiert durch das Produkt von Länge ... Breite in cm des A6-Blattes, zum Beispiel 30 Läsionen: (4 ... 3 cm) = 2,5 Läsionen pro Blatteinheit. Da nicht alle verwendeten A6-Blätter die gleiche Grösse haben, ergibt die Berechnung der Läsionenzahl pro Blatteinheit vergleichbare Resultate.

³ Nombre de lésions par unité de surface foliaire (L.U.); unité de surface foliaire (L.U.) = le nombre total de lésions d'une feuille A6 divisé par le produit de la longueur par la largeur de la feuille A6; par exemple, 30 lésions: (4 ... 3 cm) = 2,5 lésions par L.U. Puisque toutes les feuilles A6 n'ont pas la même grandeur, le calcul des lésions par surface foliaire (L.U.) donne des résultats comparables.

⁴ Genauigkeit in % (Inokulation mit Blattsäft + 100) – präzision % (inoculation par jus de feuilles + 100).

⁵ a. Keimquerschnitt – a, germe, coupe transversale.

⁶ b. Knollenschnitt – surface de la coupe du tubercule.

⁷ c. Gequetschte Keime – germes érasés.

⁸ d. Schnittfläche des Kronenstückes – surface de la couronne sectionnée.

⁹ LSD 5% (1%) für Anzahl Läsionen (L.U.) – LSD 5% (1%), pour le nombre de lésions (L.U.).

TABELLE 3. Wirkung verschiedener Inokulationsmethoden auf die Genauigkeit des A6-Testes (Nachweis von Virus Y)

TABLEAU 3. Effet de différentes méthodes d'inoculation sur la précision du test sur feuille A6 (diagnose du virus Y)

FIG. 7

Methods a-d of inoculating A6 leaves (see text); the part of the sprout or tuber used for inoculation is hatched

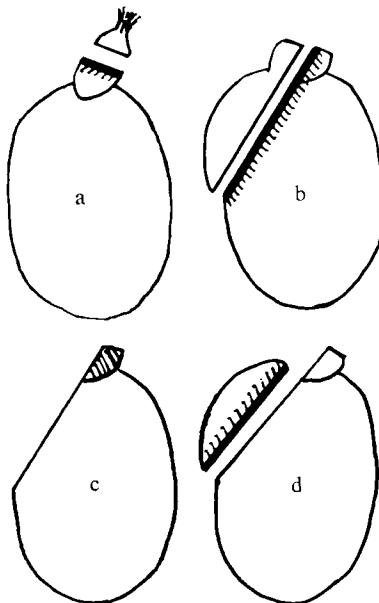


ABB. 7

Darstellung der Verfahren a-d für das Inokulieren von A6-Blättern (siehe Text); die abgeriebenen Keim- oder Knollenteile sind schraffiert

FIG. 7

Méthode a-d de l'inoculation des feuilles A6 (voir texte); les parties des germes ou des tubercles utilisées pour l'inoculation sont hachurées

The figures in TABLE 3 show that the number of lesions per leaf unit (L.U.) are highest and the results more accurate with cut or squeezed sprouts. This agrees with the finding of DE BOKX (1964) who stated that virus infectivity was higher in sap from sprouts than in sap from cut tubers. In treatments b and d (var. *Bintje* only) scoring was done after 7 and 10 days. By prolonging the interval after inoculation from 7 to 10 days the accuracy rose from 72,3 to 81,8% in method b and from 69,7 to 78,8% in

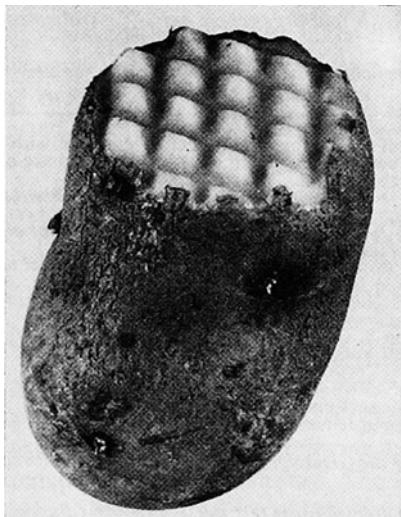


FIG. 8

Tuber showing waffle-cut

ABB. 8

Knolle mit Waffelschnitt

FIG. 8

Tubercule montrant une coupe gaufrée

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method d. This retardation of the appearance of symptoms is probably connected with inhibiting factors in the tuber sap.

Although with *Bintje* greatest accuracy was obtained when cut sprouts were used, the squeezed sprout method, which is almost as accurate (var. *Sirtema*), is to be preferred as it facilitates handling in large-scale tests. Nevertheless, cut sprouts (a) should be used for inoculation in all cases where they remain short during the full pre-sprouting period. The unsatisfactory results obtained with the moist surface of a cut tuber (d) led to experiments with a "waffle-cut" method.

The rose end of the tubers was cut twice, in different directions, with a special vegetable plane (FIG. 8) thus increasing the area of the cut surface and wounded vascular tissue. The sap, which accumulated in large quantities at the tops of the pyramidal ridges, was used for rubbing on one half of a cut A6 leaf. The other half of this leaf, carefully separated, had previously been inoculated with the squeezed sprouts (Stan-

TABLE 4. Accuracy of the A6-leaf test using the waffle-cut method

Variety Sorte - Variété	Treatment - <i>Verfahren</i> <i>Traitemet</i>	Number of lesions p. leaf unit (L.U.) ¹	Accuracy % (Inocula- tion with leaf sap = 100) ²
<i>Bintje</i>	Waffle-cut ³	1,9	73,5
	Squeezed sprouts	2,4	85,3
	LSD 5% for number of lesions (L.U.)	2,5	
	LSD 1% for number of lesions (L.U.)	2,8	
<i>Sirtema</i>	Waffle-cut ³	2,7	83,2
	Squeezed sprouts	7,8	89,5
	LSD 5% for number of lesions (L.U.)	1,4	
	LSD 1% for number of lesions (L.U.)	1,5	

Significance for Accuracy (for tests of significance values were transformed into arc sin $\sqrt{\text{percentage}}$): - *Signifikanz für Genauigkeit in %* (die Prüfung auf Signifikanz wurde nach Transformation der Werte in arc sin $\sqrt{\text{Genauigkeit in %}}$ vorgenommen): - *Signification pour la précision en %* (l'examen statistique a été fait après la transformation des valeurs en arc sin $\sqrt{\text{pourcentage}}$):

Bintje and *Sirtema*: Waffle cut vs. squeezed sprouts at 1% level - *Waffelschnitt* vs. *gequetschte Keime* gesichert bei 1% - coupe gaufrière contre germes écrasés au niveau 1%.

¹ Anzahl Läsionen pro Blatteinheit (L.U.) - nombre de lésions par unité de surface foliaire (L.U.).

² Genauigkeit in % (Inokulation mit Blattsap = 100) - précision % (inoculation par jus de feuilles = 100).

³ Waffelschnitt - coupe gaufrière.

For the other inscriptions see TABLE 3 - für die anderen Ausdrücke siehe TABELLE 3 - pour les autres inscriptions voir TABLEAU 3.

TABELLE 4. Genauigkeit des A6-Testes bei Anwendung der Waffelschnittmethode
TABLEAU 4. Précision du test sur feuille A6 en utilisant la méthode de la coupe gaufrière

dard Method) from the rose end of the same tuber. All tubers were pre-sprouted as described above and results checked by the A6-leaf test following tuber indexing as already described.

Comparing TABLES 3 and 4, the waffle-cut technique does not appear to be any more accurate than methods b and d. Measurements of the total amount of sap which accumulated on the pyramidal ridges showed that significantly less (c. 60%) was inoculated with the waffle-cut method than with rubbing the plane-cut surface of a tuber piece.

Sap from sprouts is more suitable for use in the A6-leaf test than sap from tubers. It is easier to use squeezed sprouts than the surface of cut ones. Accuracy is, in either case, good.

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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

NACHWEIS VON VIRUS Y UND BLATTROLL IN DER PFLANZKARTOFFEL- ERZEUGUNG MIT HINWEISEN AUF VERBESSERUNGSMÖGLICHKEITEN DES A6-ABREIBETESTES

Nachdem in verschiedenen Ländern die Beschaffenheitsprüfung für das erzeugte Kartoffelpflanzgut in die Anerkennungsvorschriften eingebaut wurde, haben wir die Absicht, in einigen Beiträgen über die bei uns gemachten Erfahrungen mit dem Igel-Lange-Test und dem A6-Abreibetest zu berichten und Versuchsergebnisse bekanntzugeben.

Seit einigen Jahren wird die gesamte schweizerische Pflanzkartoffelerzeugung, die 1964 3727 ha anerkannte Fläche umfasste, vor dem Verkauf im Igel-Lange-Test und A6-Abreibetest auf Befall durch Blattroll und Virus Y untersucht. Von jedem auf dem Feld provisorisch anerkannten Bestand gelangt ein Muster von 50 Knollen in die Prüfungen. Liegt der Virusbefall dieses Musters über der Toleranzgrenze der entsprechenden Anerkennungsklasse, wird ein neues Muster von 200 Knollen untersucht. Dieses Ergebnis entscheidet über die endgültige Anerkennung, Deklassierung oder Aberkennung. Probenentnahme und Durchführung der Tests verursachen Kosten, die jedoch durch einen bescheidenen Preisaufschlag von Fr. 0.25/100 kg (Verkaufspreis Fr. 40.- bis 45.- je 100 kg) gedeckt werden können. Die Einführung dieser

Beschaffenheitsprüfung hat sich in unserem Land bewährt und wesentlich zur Absatzsteigerung des inländischen Saatgutes beigetragen. TABELLE 1 vermittelt eine Übersicht über die Pflanzguterneuerung, die Steigerung der inländischen Erzeugung und die Kartoffelerträge im Landesdurchschnitt.

Nach der ausführlichen Beschreibung der Arbeitsmethode (ABB. 1-7) wird über Versuche berichtet, die zu einer Verbesserung des A6-Testes führen sollten. Es konnte gezeigt werden, dass mit Knollen, die bei 20°-24 °C während 21-28 Tagen bei diffusem Licht vorgekeimt wurden, die günstigsten Ergebnisse zu erreichen sind (TABELLE 2). Belichtete Keime sind für die Abreibung geeigneter, da sie beim Quetschen in geringerem Umfang abbrechen als Dunkelkeime. Bei Versuchen betreffend Verbesserung der Inkulationsmethode ergab sich, dass durch Abreiben von Knollenschnittflächen gegenüber dem Abreiben von gequetschten Keimen keine Verbesserung der Zuverlässigkeit des A6-Testes zu erzielen ist (TABELLE 3). Das Einreiben horizontal durchgeschnittener Keime zeitigte Ergebnisse, die jenen der Standardmethode ebenbürtig waren. Einreiben der Keimschnittfläche wird jedoch nur

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empfohlen, wenn die Keime des Kronenendes nicht in genügender Länge entwickelt sind. Bei gut angetriebenen Knollen ist diese Methode der Keimquetschung arbeitstechnisch unterlegen. Schliesslich wurde noch versucht, die direkte

Knollenabreibung durch Herstellung des so genannten Waffelschnittes (ABB. 8) zu verbessern, doch fiel das Ergebnis nicht günstig aus (TABELLE 4).

RÉSUMÉ

CONTRÔLE DE LA PRÉSENCE DU VIRUS Y ET DE L'ENROULEMENT DANS LA CULTIVATION DE PLANTS DE POMME DE TERRE ET RECHERCHES VISANT A AUGMENTER LA PRÉCISION DU TEST SUR FEUILLE A6 POUR LE VIRUS Y

Differentes pays ayant introduit le contrôle sanitaire dans leurs prescriptions d'admission des plants de Pomme de terre, nous avons l'intention de publier le résultat de nos expériences dans l'utilisation du test Igel-Lange et du test de frottement sur A6.

Depuis quelques années, toute la production suisse de plants de pomme de terre, qui en 1964 s'étendait sur une surface de 3.727 ha, est soumise avant la vente aux tests Igel-Lange et A6 pour déceler la présence éventuelle de l'enroulement et du virus Y. A cette fin, un échantillon de 50 tubercules est prélevé dans chaque champ admis provisoirement lors des visites des cultures. Si le pourcentage de viroses dépasse la limite tolérée pour la classe déterminée, un nouvel échantillon de 200 tubercules est examiné. Le résultat obtenu à partir de ce dernier échantillon décide de l'admission définitive, du déclassement ou du refus du lot. Une modeste majoration de prix de 0,25 Frs/100 kg (le prix de vente étant de 40 à 45 Frs les 100 kg) couvre les frais de prélèvement des échantillons et d'exécution des tests. L'introduction du contrôle sanitaire s'est révélée utile dans notre pays et a essentiellement favorisé l'écoulement des plants indigènes certifiés. Le TABLEAU 1 fournit des données sur le renouvellement du plant, l'augmentation de la production indigène et les moyennes

de production nationale de pommes de terre. La description détaillée de la méthode de travail (FIG. 1 à 7) est suivie d'un rapport sur des essais qui avaient pour but d'améliorer le test A6. Il s'est révélé que les résultats les plus favorables ont été obtenus avec des tubercules prégermés à des températures de 20 à 24 °C pendant 21 à 28 jours sous lumière diffuse (TABLEAU 2). Les germes formés à la lumière conviennent mieux pour le frottement parce que se brisant moins par écrasement que les germes formés à l'obscurité. Les recherches sur l'amélioration de la méthode d'inoculation révèlent que le frottement de coupes de tubercules n'augmente pas la certitude du test A6 par comparaison au frottement de germes écrasés (TABLEAU 3). Le frottement de germes sectionnés horizontalement donne des résultats identiques au frottement de germes traités selon la méthode standard. Toutefois le frottement de la surface de sectionnement du germe n'est recommandable que lorsque les germes de la couronne ne sont pas suffisamment développés. Chez les germes bien développés la méthode des germes écrasés est supérieure du point de vue technique de travail. Finalement on a essayé d'améliorer la méthode de frottement direct du tubercule en faisant des "coupes gaufrées" (FIG. 8) mais le résultat n'a pas été favorable (TABLEAU 4).

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