

American Potato Journal

PUBLISHED BY
THE POTATO ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

F. J. STEVENSON, *President*.....U. S. D. A., Beltsville, Md.
E. B. TUSSING, *Vice-President*.....Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
W. H. MARTIN, *Sec.-Treas., Editor*..Agr. Exp. Sta., New Brunswick, New Jersey
E. J. WHEELER.....Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan
L. M. WARE.....Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama
MARK KOEHNKE.....Nebraska Certified Potato Growers, Alliance, Nebraska
C. D. GAINES.....Department of Agriculture, Olympia, Washington
F. M. BLODGETT.....Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

POTATO VARIETIES RECENTLY INTRODUCED TO GROWERS

F. J. STEVENSON¹

*Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.*

The varieties of potatoes that have been distributed to growers within the past ten years, as the result of the work of the National Potato Breeding Program carried on cooperatively between the U. S. Department of Agriculture and about 30 State experiment stations, are being rapidly increased. Approximately 37 per cent of the certified seed in Maine in 1941 consisted of four new varieties, namely, Katahdin, Chippewa, Sebago, and Houma. Small lots of Earlane No. 2, Mesaba, Pontiac, and Sequoia were also on the certified list. About 1,300 acres of new varieties were certified in Minnesota. Among these varieties are the Warba, Red Warba, Mesaba, Chippewa, Katahdin, Houma, Pontiac, Sebago, and Sequoia. Nearly all the certified potatoes in North Carolina were of the Sequoia variety—approximately 11,000 bushels. In New York state the Katahdin, Chippewa, Houma, Sebago, Mesaba, and Earlane No. 2 have been certified; in Pennsylvania, Certified Nittany Cobbler and Pennigan are produced by a number of growers; whereas the Pontiac, Chippewa, and Katahdin are produced in Michigan; and in Wisconsin the Chippewa, Katahdin, and Sebago. It is evident, from the foregoing, that the new varieties are quite widely distributed and that seed can be obtained from a number of different sources.

¹Senior Geneticist, Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has no seed stock of these varieties either for free distribution or for sale, but it should be possible to purchase such stock from any reliable seed dealer and especially from seed dealers in states where the certified seed is grown.

A variety of potatoes that does well in one section may be of little value in another. Don't buy high-priced seed because it is new or is superior in some other section without first finding out if it is adapted to your conditions. See your local county agent or write to the agricultural department of your state college or university. In many cases they may have made comparative tests of the new varieties and can give information regarding their behavior in the various sections of your state. In some instances they may be able to give you information on sources of seed. If they have not tested the variety in which you are interested, it is advisable to buy a small amount of seed stock and test it in comparison with your standard varieties.

CURRENT CONTRIBUTIONS ON POTATO INSECTS

W. A. RAWLINS

Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

This review will be necessarily confined to a survey of the potato insect investigations being conducted in this country. Foreign accounts are few since a mere smattering of foreign journals and papers has been received during the past year. However, the large number of contributions appearing in our own literature should make the review worthwhile. It is the writer's opinion, based on past reviews, that potato growers in this country are troubled with most, if not all, of the potato insect pests.

A general idea of the number of these pests, their distribution and abundance may be obtained from the Insect Pest Survey Bulletin (30) published by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Popular, well illustrated accounts of potato insects, such as farmer's bulletins, are issued from time to time by the Federal and State Agencies. Two of these general bulletins were issued by Iowa (13) and Colorado (5) on the potato insects occurring in those states. Other bulletins on a specific pest will be discussed under the insect concerned.

COLORADO POTATO BEETLE, *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*

Aside from the infestation records published in the Insect Pest Surveys and the general bulletins mentioned no detailed consideration was given to this old and familiar pest.