

Subject: Post-Harvest Testing (aka “Winter Grow-out”) - A few important items

1. **Winter Grow-out Requirements:** A winter grow-out (WGO) is required for all lots for final certification. Any seed lot you receive for recertification (i.e. seed used to produce seed) is also required to have had a winter grow-out. An ELISA test for virus does not take the place of a winter grow-out. Exceptions to this requirement are considered as “special cases” and must have advanced approval by OSCS. NOW is the time to insist that your seed source conduct a Winter Grow-out on their seed.

NOTE: Only seed lots that have been fully accepted for certification at the time of the WGO (Sept-Dec) are eligible to be entered into this program. Acceptance of lots requires that:

- (1) The **variety** has been accepted as eligible for certification in Oregon;
- (2) The **grower** has been approved for certified production by the variety owner (if proprietary);
- (3) The lot has been produced in a **field** with approved **history** and **isolation** (see Standards);
- (4) There has been two **field inspections** during the growing season (one 2-3 weeks from emergence, one at early die down);
- (5) A ‘**harvest inspection**’ was conducted on the lot in the field or bins (unless waived by OSCS);
- (6) All application **fees** have been paid (excluding the WGO charge).

OSCS no longer will accept seed lots from other states/provinces into the WGO program. For more detailed information see the Seed Potato Standards at: <http://seedcert.oregonstate.edu/potatoes>.

2. **Required WGO sample size for “own-use-only” Nuclear and G1 lots:** For growers of PVY *latent* varieties that opted out of latent virus testing this summer for the “One-Use-Only”/WGO option, please don’t forget that to be eligible for Nuclear or G1 class the minimum sample size for these lots is 220 tubers if 1 acre or less, 420 tubers for up to 20 acre lots. Any such lot for which tubers are not submitted will automatically be downgraded to G2 class eligibility. Please note: the 750 lbs exemption for WGO does not apply to such lots!
3. **Eye-indexing for Nuclear lots:** Minimum lot size for nuclear lots is 220 tubers for each lot. These nuclear lots are high value, so to help reduce the impact of the loss of material sent to the WGO, OSCS is allow Nuclear class lots (only) to be ‘eye indexed’. In this process a single eye can be removed from the tuber by the grower, and used for the WGO, leaving the rest of the tuber for propagation the next season. Growers who choose this option should contact **OSCS** for an acceptable protocol to follow.
4. **Optional PVY ELISA testing:** PVY testing of winter grow-out lots is optional in Oregon. OSCS offers this service to growers who request it in advance. In this program a ‘standard’ 400-leaf sample is taken (or less if fewer plants present in the lot). The grower will be billed directly by the OSU lab for the lab testing cost (currently \$208 for 400 leaves, \$2.60 per 5 leaf test), and billed a \$32 per lot ‘sampling/mailling’ fee by OSCS (or \$42 per 400 leaf sample if shipping is needed). Total cost per 400 tuber lot for this testing thus comes about \$240. Testing leaves from the greenhouse is much cheaper than testing tubers later on! Testing 400 tubers for PVY generally about 4 times the cost of leaf testing.

5. **PVY Strain Survey:** ELISA samples found to be + for PVY can also be analyzed for PVY strain type (i.e. PVY-no, -ntn, -o, etc.). This is important because some PVY strains cause internal necrosis in certain varieties some do not (see <http://potatovirus.com/> for more information of virus strain-variety interactions). PVY Strain testing is available upon request in advance of the WGO readings. ELISA plates with positive wells for PVY are sent to the labs of North Dakota State University (Neil Gudmestad) for PVY stain analysis. The cost is approximately \$11/test. The grower is billed by OSCS at the end of the season for or any testing done at NDSU.
6. **Dickeya Testing:** Oregon Seed Certification does not test the WGO samples for Dickeya spp and OSCS cannot sample your lots for this disease due to the manner lots are handled prior to planting. Samples of lots must be sent directly from your facility to a testing lab. For further information on sampling and testing for Dickeya contact either Ken Frost (HAREC) at 541-8321 x105; or Noah Rosenzweig (University of Michigan) at 517-355-4754. ICIA currently does not conduct testing for Dickeya.
7. **Inspection at Shipping Point – set aside tubers:** As you should recall, the Necrotic Virus Management Plan, which Oregon has agreed to participate in, requires that all lots of seed potato shipped out of state receive an inspection for internal necrotic arcs after 2 months (minimum) in storage. Maximum tolerance for internal necrotic arcs are set at 2.0% for certified seed, and 0.5% for seed to be eligible for re-certification (see extract below). It is the responsibility of the grower to contact the ODA for this inspection (Elizabeth A. Savory, Plant Health Program Manager, (503) 986-4570, or esavory@oda.state.or.us). The ODA has been allowing growers to set aside two 200-tuber bags of each lot to be inspected in the early spring. Contact Dr. Savory for details.
8. **Some Important Winter Grow-Out Dates:**

October 1	- Evaluation samples may be delivered after this date;
November 20	- Deliveries received <u>after</u> this date will be assessed a late fee;
December 15	- OSCS must be notified in advance of any samples to arrive after Dec 15;
January 2	- No winter test samples will be accepted after this date.