

Requirements and Rules for the Inspection and Certification
of New Jersey Late-Crop Seed Potatoes

The requirements and rules stated in this publication were adopted by the New Jersey State Potato Association and the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture. Failure to read and understand the regulations does not release the grower from meeting them.

GENERAL STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION

I. APPLICATION

- A. The applicant must present, as directed, a properly filled-in application blank.
- B. Applications for certification may be accepted or rejected at the discretion of the certification committee, consisting of two representatives of the State Department of Agriculture and two members of the New Jersey State Potato Association.
- C. Applications for certification must be filed on proper blanks with Mr. William M. Cranstoun, Supervisor of Seed Certification, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Trenton, New Jersey.
- D. No application will be accepted after August 20.
- E. Fees as hereinafter defined must accompany the application for certification.

II. FEES

- A. The grower, upon applying for inspection service, shall pay a registration fee of five dollars (\$5.00) and a fee of two dollars (\$2.00) per acre for each acre or fraction thereof to be inspected.
- B. Upon the filing of the application for certification, the registration fee (five dollars) shall be retained by the Potato Association.
- C. Refunds

Refunds allowed because of withdrawal or rejection shall be made as follows:

Withdrawal before first inspection	- \$ 2.00 per acre
Rejections on first inspection	- 1.50 per acre
Rejections on second inspection	- 1.00 per acre
Rejections on third inspection	- .75 per acre
Rejections at shipping point	- No refund

Note: No refunds will be made until all inspection work has been completed.

III. SEED REQUIREMENTS

To be entered for certification, seed potatoes must be grown from stock that has been previously certified. No potatoes will be accepted for approval. A new strain of noncertified potatoes may be entered for certification only after it has been grown for one year in New Jersey and approved by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

IV. DATE OF PLANTING

- A. Irish Cobblers and Warbas planted prior to July 25 in South Jersey, or prior to July 20 in the counties north of Burlington and Ocean counties, will not be accepted for certification.
- B. In both Central and South Jersey areas, Green Mountains, Katahdins, Chippewas or other late varieties planted prior to July 20 will not be accepted for certification.
- C. Red Skins planted prior to July 15, throughout the state, will not be accepted for certification.

V. FIELD REQUIREMENTS

A. Isolation

- 1. Fields entered for certification which are within 200 feet of potatoes showing more than a total of 10 per cent of the virus diseases will be disqualified.
- 2. Where two fields are within 200 feet of each other and one shows more than the permitted tolerance of virus diseases, but not over 10 per cent, the potatoes from the 10 rows nearest the field showing disease in excess of the tolerance must be harvested separately and will not be certified.

B. Roguing

Fields entered for certification may be rogued at any time. All diseased plants must be removed from the field. Tubers from diseased plants, if of grade size, must likewise be removed. All plants indicated by the inspector shall be rogued at the inspector's discretion following each inspection.

C. Spraying

Fields damaged by early or late blight or tip burn, so that disease identification becomes impossible, will be rejected.

D. Cultural Conditions

Fields showing poor cultural conditions may be disqualified. These conditions include failure to control weeds or the presence of plants lacking in vigor from any cause.

VI. FIELD INSPECTION

A. Time

First: As early as possible to identify diseases.

Second: From the time of blossoming to just before the vines mature.

Third: After the crop is graded.

B. Specific Standards

At the field inspections a field will be disqualified for exceeding the following tolerances:

	<u>First Inspection</u> (Per cent)	<u>Second Inspection</u> (Per cent)
Leaf Roll	3	1
Mosaic	3	2
Spindle Tuber	2	1
Yellow Dwarf	0.5	0.5
Total Virus	5	3
Black Leg	2	1
Wilt	2	1
Total of Above Diseases	6	4
Bacterial Ring Rot
Giant Hills	..	1
Varietal Mixture	1	0.25

VII. TUBER INSPECTION

A. Grade for Certified Seed Potatoes

This grade applies only to potatoes in containers which are tagged to indicate that they have passed the field inspection requirements of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

1. New Jersey Certified Seed Potatoes shall consist of potatoes of one variety, which are not badly misshapen; free from recognizable spindle tuber, freezing injury, deep scab, and soft rot. The potatoes shall be free from damage caused by dirt or other foreign matter, sunburn, second growth, growth cracks, cuts, bruises, hollow heart, sprouting, shriveling, stem end and other internal discoloration, dry rot surface scab (moderate), surface scab (severe), rhizoctonia (moderate), rhizoctonia (severe), other diseases, insects or mechanical or other means. (See Tolerances, Section B, Specific Standards on Page 4.)
2. Unless otherwise specified,* the diameter of potatoes of round varieties shall not be less than 1 7/8 inches and of potatoes of long varieties, not less than 1 3/4 inches and the weight of each potato shall not exceed 12 ounces. (See Tolerances which follow.)

*New Jersey Certified Seed Potatoes, 1 1/2 inches minimum.

B. Specific Standards

1. Tolerances

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, the following tolerances calculated on the basis of weight are provided.

	<u>Per cent</u>
Below minimum size.....	3
Above maximum size.....	6
Surface scab (moderate).....	10
Surface scab (severe).....	5
Rhizoctonia (moderate).....	25
Rhizoctonia (severe).....	5
Stem end or other internal discoloration.....	5
Sprouting.....	10
For requirements other than size, surface scab, rhizoctonia, stem end or other internal dis- coloration and sprouting.....	6

Note: Of this 6 per cent, not more than 1/6 or 1 per cent shall be allowed for soft rot, not more than 1/6 or 1 per cent for recognizable spindle tuber and not more than 1/3 or 2 per cent for deep scab.

The tolerances specified shall be placed on a container basis. However, any lot of seed potatoes shall be considered as meeting the requirements of the grade if, upon inspection, no sample from a single container in any lot is found to exceed the tolerances specified by more than double the amount allowed, provided that the entire lot shall average within the tolerances specified.

VIII. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Definitions of terms used in describing New Jersey Certified Seed Potatoes are as follows:

- A. "Not badly misshapen" means that the potatoes are not excessively pointed, dumbbell-shaped, excessively elongated, or otherwise ill-formed.
- B. "Soft rot" means any soft or mushy condition of the tissue, such as slimy soft rot, wet fusarium, or wet breakdown following freezing injury or sunscald.
- C. "Damage" means any injury or defect which materially affects the appearance or which materially injures the potato for seed purposes. Any one of the following defects or any combination of defects, the seriousness of which exceeds the maximum allowed for any one defect, shall be considered as damage:
 1. "Dirt or foreign matter" which materially affects the general appearance of the lot. A potato having an appreciable amount of caked dirt shall also be considered as damaged.

2. "Sunburn" which causes dark discoloration and affects more than 10 per cent of the surface of the tuber. Light greening or light discoloration caused by exposure to light shall not be considered as damage.
3. "Second growth" which has developed to such an extent as to noticeably affect the appearance of the potato.
4. "Growth cracks" which are not shallow or not well healed.
5. "Sprouting"--when the sprouts are over $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long.
6. "Shriveling"--when the tuber is more than slightly shriveled.
7. "Surface scab (moderate)" that is, surface scab which covers from 2 per cent to not more than 10 per cent of the surface in the aggregate.
8. "Surface scab (severe)" that is, surface scab which covers more than 10 per cent of the surface in the aggregate.
9. "Rhizoctonia (moderate)" that is, rhizoctonia which covers from 2 per cent to not more than 5 per cent of the surface in the aggregate.
10. "Rhizoctonia (severe)" that is, rhizoctonia which covers more than 5 per cent of the surface in the aggregate.
11. "Stem end discoloration" which extends over $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch into the flesh of the potato.

IX. GENERAL GRADING AND MARKETING REGULATIONS

- A. All potatoes must be graded. The diameter of the potatoes shall be as specified in the grade.
- B. The crop must be marketed in new bags. Reclaimed or washed bags will not be considered as new bags. Each bag must carry the prescribed tag, which must be attached to the sack on the farm or at the shipping point by the grower or under his supervision. The tags, to be valid, must bear the grower's signature or stamp.

Seed sold in any other manner will not be certified.
- C. The grower or dealer offering certified seed for sale is responsible for conditions which develop after the tuber inspection.
- D. Nothing in the certification requirements shall be construed to exempt the grower from complying with the New Jersey Marking Law, (Chapter 67, P. L. N. J. 1929). This law regulates sacks and the marking of sacks.

- E. Copies of the inspection records of any field inspection may be obtained by writing directly to the Division of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, Trenton, New Jersey
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Latest information on disease and insect control measures, seed improvement methods and other questions pertaining to the production of late-crop seed potatoes, may be obtained from county agricultural agents or the Agricultural Experiment Station at New Brunswick, New Jersey.