

2004 VARIETY TRIAL RESULTS

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The tables on the following pages summarize research results from our Tri-State, Regional and advanced Trials grown in Idaho.

The Tri-State, Western Regional (dual purpose russet and long white processing), Western Regional Chip and Western Regional Specialty trials were planted in Aberdeen, ID using an Iron Age assist-feed plate planter and harvested using a one-row Grimme harvester. Vine kill of the Tri-State, Western Regional Russet and Western Regional Chip trials at Aberdeen were vine killed with Reglone[®] in August while the specialty trial was vine killed prior to harvest.

The Western Regional trial at Kimberly also was planted and harvested using similar equipment. Vine kill at Kimberly was by vine beating. The advanced trials at Shelley and Rexburg also were planted using an Iron Age assist-feed plate planter, but harvested using a level bed digger and hand picked into burlap bags.

Planting, vine kill and harvest dates are shown in the table below.

Trial	Planting	Vine Kill	Harvest
Aberdeen Western Regional	April 26	September 3	September 20
Kimberly Western Regional	April 29	September 14	October 11
Aberdeen Tri-State	April 26	September 3	September 17
Shelley Advanced Variety	May 10	NA	September 27
Rexburg Advanced Variety	May 10	NA	September 27
Aberdeen Western Regional Chip	April 26	September 3	September 20
Aberdeen Western Regional Specialty	April 26	August 16	August 17

Weather in the Aberdeen area was characterized by a cool spring and mild growing conditions throughout the growing season. The cool spring saw only four days with temperatures reaching above 80° F and a frost on May 25. The growing season was wetter than normal with 3.6 inches of rain falling between April 15 and September 4. As a result of this high precipitation, humidity was higher than normal with relative humidity reaching over 50% on 85 days between May 15 and September 4. Summer was relatively cool with temperatures reaching over 90° F on just 10 days and no days over 100° F.

These conditions resulted in a high potential for late blight and therefore five fungicide applications were made beginning on July 1. This year's trial returned good results with relatively high percentages of U.S. No. 1 tubers for some varieties.

Weather in the Kimberly area was similar with temperatures reaching over 90° F on only 17 days and also no days over 100° F. Overall, the trial returned good results, however yields were slightly below average for the area.

The Shelley advanced variety trial was conducted on a grower field east of Shelley, ID. Weather conditions were similar to Aberdeen. No major problems were encountered at Shelley with good results observed and yields similar to those at Aberdeen.

The Rexburg advanced variety trials was conducted on a grower field on the Rexburg bench. Weather conditions were milder than those at Aberdeen. This trial also returned good results and yields typical of the area.