

VARIATION IN SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

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This matter of variation in seed programs from state to state is receiving national attention. The Seed Certification & Nomenclature Committee of the Potato Association of America is putting a great deal of time and effort into this area.

In February of 1969, a conference was held in Chicago and some of the information that I will talk about today will be taken from a summary of that meeting. Some of the subject matter included was "Standards for Latent Virus-Free Seed Potatoes of Various States and Canada", "Standardization of Terminology Applied to Certified Seed Potatoes", and "National Seed Grades."

To quote from the summary: "Some of the factors that a seed potato buyer considers include certification class, grade, cost per hundred-weight, and the reputation of the seed grower.

Among his first considerations is the certification class. However, commonly encountered terminology is often confusing. Potato certification regulations, reports, and advertisements include such terms as Certified X-Free; Elite I, II, or III; Premium Foundation, Foundation II, Foundation; Parent Stock; Registered; Rogued to the Satisfaction of the Inspector; Excessive Virus Disease; and Certified.

Even when faced with choosing a grade the grower experiences confusion. Ten or more tag colors denoting grades are in current use.

The confusion is largely in terminology - not in the regulatory programs. Examination of certification regulations show that most are quite similar, if not identical, in their objectives."

Let me bring this a little closer to home.

<u>WASHINGTON</u>	<u>OREGON</u>	<u>IDAHO</u>
<b>AGENCY:</b>		
Dept. of Agriculture	Dept. of Agriculture & OSU & Extension Serv.	Idaho Crop Improvement and University
<b>TAGS:</b>		
Blue	Blue	Blue - Cert. (1)
Red	Green	Red (2)
White	Foundation	Green (3)
Buff	Purple	Yellow (4)
(Foundation on Tags)	White	(Foundation on Tags)

<u>WASHINGTON</u>	<u>OREGON</u>	<u>IDAHO</u>
FEEES:		
\$5. 50/acre	\$7. 00/acre (. 05/tuber for foundation)	\$1. 60/acre (. 02 tag fee)

Assuming a 20 acre lot of seed potatoes with one foundation tests and a production of 225 cwt/acre, the cost to the seed grower would be:

\$110. 00

\$165. 00

\$122. 00

I might mention here that the fees charged in this state do not cover the cost of the program. The department is presently involved in discussions with the seed potato industry to adjust these fees. In most other states the certification programs are completely funded by the people who use the service.

The committee from the Potato Association of America is holding their second Seed Potato Certification Conference on the 17th and 18th of this month. If the people involved are willing to give this committee full cooperation, perhaps through their efforts some of the variations which cause confusion will be controlled.