



Potato Progress

Research and Extension for Washington's Potato Industry

Published by Washington State Potato Commission www.potatoes.com

Andrew Jensen, Editor. Submit articles and comments to: ajensen@potatoes.com

108 Interlake Rd., Moses Lake, WA 98837; Fax: 509-765-4853; Phone: 509-765-8845.

Volume IX, Number 13

November 6, 2009

Baby Potato Workshop

When: 10am, Monday December 14th

Where: Irrigated Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Prosser

Researchers at Prosser will present some of their potato research. A focus will be on the "baby potato" work funded by the potato commission. Approximately 90 different potato cultivars and breeding lines from around the country were grown at the WSU research farm in Othello in 2009 to be evaluated for their suitability as sources of baby potatoes. This is a collaborative project involving Roy Navarre and Chuck Brown of the USDA-ARS, Mel Martin of J.R. Simplot, and Mark Pavsek of WSU.

Baby potatoes may have several characteristics that can help them gain market share, including that they can have higher levels of phytonutrients and vitamins than mature tubers. Our goal is to identify and develop high-phytonutrient baby potato cultivars that can help re-establish the healthful image of potatoes and create new opportunities for growers. On Monday, Dec 14 we will display potatoes from these ~90 lines, along with phytonutrient and yield data. All interested are invited to attend. For more info please contact Roy at 509-786-9261.

Washington State Potato Commission

Final Research Review, February 16-17, 2010

Best Western Hotel, Pasco

Purpose: Hear results from 2009 potato commission research projects and listen to proposals for 2010 research

Who's Welcome: All Washington potato growers and other potato industry members

Location: Best Western Hotel, Pasco, near the airport
Phone: 509-543-7722. Mention the WSPC when making your reservation and you will get the group rate

Time: February 16, 8:00 am - 5:30 pm; February 17, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Pesticide Re-certification Credits: Will be available both days.

RSVP appreciated for meal planning purposes to Andy Jensen, ajensen@potatoes.com or 509-765-8845.

Potato Pest Information Cards

Laminated 6"x9" copies of these cards are available free to Washington potato growers and for \$5 each to others (within the U.S. only). To order, send check or money order and a listing of the desired cards and quantities to: WA State Potato Commission, 108 Interlake Rd., Moses Lake, WA 98837

Below is an example of one card. In addition to this, we have cards on the following topics:

Insect/Mite Pests

- Beet Leafhopper/Purple Top (Also in Spanish)
- Aphids (Also in Spanish)
- Tuberworm (Also in Spanish)
- Leaf stippling Pests: Spider Mites and Thrips
- True Bugs: Stink Bugs and Lygus Bugs
- Wireworms
- Psyllids and Whiteflies

Beneficial Organisms

- Predators: Big-Eyed Bugs and Damsel Bugs
- Predators: Ground Beetles

Diseases

- Late Blight (Also in Spanish)
- Pink Rot and Pythium Leak
- Rhizoctonia Canker and Black Scurf
- White Mold
- Tuber Blemish Diseases: Silver Scurf and Black Dot
- Bacterial Diseases: Aerial Stem Rot and Blackleg
- Common Scab and Powdery Scab

Predators: Big-Eyed Bugs

See also: <http://www.potatoes.com/research.cfm>



There are two major types of big-eyed bugs in potatoes. The lighter type on the left is far more common than the black one.

Young big-eyed bugs look a lot like adults, but don't have wings.





"Drinking" from the leaf tissues.

Big-eyed bugs sometimes feed on plants when prey is scarce. This allows them to stay in a field until more prey is present.

Here's the aphid's head.

Big-eyed bugs are small. These big-eyed bugs shared a little bigger than aphids, an aphid, sucking out the fluids.

Big-eyed bug biology

1. Big-eyed bugs are present throughout the Columbia Basin, and are common in or near most potato fields.
2. Adult big-eyed bugs are present in early spring and colonize potato fields early.
3. They are sensitive to many insecticides – care must be taken to preserve them.
4. Big-eyed bugs are generalist predators, feeding on almost any insect small enough for them to catch, but they are a major predator of aphids in potatoes.

Washington State Potato Commission (Phone: 509-765-8845)

Predators: Damsel Bugs

See also: <http://www.potatoes.com/research.cfm>




Adult damsel bug feeding on an adult Lygus bug.

Damsel bugs are generalist predators, feeding on many of the pest insects in potatoes. They use their strong front legs to capture prey.




The aphid's body fluids are sucked through the "beak."

Damsel bugs are larger than big-eyed bugs. Both are very active and hard to spot among the leaves.

Damsel bug biology

1. Damsel bugs are common nearly everywhere potatoes are grown in Washington.
2. Adult damsel bugs colonize potato fields in later spring, and nymphs can be found during the summer months.
3. In addition to aphids and Lygus, damsel bugs will feed on caterpillars like loopers and armyworms, and the eggs and young larvae of Colorado potato beetle.
4. Like all beneficial insects in potatoes, damsel bugs are very sensitive to broad-spectrum insecticides like pyrethroids, organophosphates, and carbamates.

Washington State Potato Commission (Phone: 509-765-8845)