



**Tri State Potato Research and  
Breeding Program Today**



University of Idaho



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PVMI—POTATO VARIETY

MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



## HISTORY

In 1949, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognized the national importance of the Pacific Northwest in the production and processing of potatoes and supported the establishment of a potato research breeding program at Aberdeen, Idaho.

While the state of Idaho had initially petitioned for the establishment of the potato breeding program, from its inception the program was meant to serve the potato industry in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Additional funding obtained in 1983 allowed the establishment of the Northwest Potato Variety Development Program, also known as the Tri-State Potato Research and Breeding Program. The objective of this regional program was to develop new potato varieties for the Pacific Northwest with enhanced attributes relative to varieties currently available to the industry.

The Tri-State Potato Research and Breeding Program is a cooperative, regional collaboration of the USDA/ARS of Idaho and Washington, Oregon State University, University of Idaho, Washington State University and the potato commissions of the three states. Research scientists work together with Experiment Station personnel in a coordinated program that has resulted in more than forty new potato varieties being released since the program's inception. Funding of the program is also cooperative, including contributions from state universities, USDA-ARS base funds, grower dollars from the state commissions, and federal grant funding through various USDA programs.

In 2011, Tri-State varieties represented over 20%, or 194,000 acres, of the fall crop in the US\*.

(\*NASS, Crop Production, November, 2011)

## 2011 Impact of the Tri-State Variety Program

The effect of the Tri-State Potato Variety Development Program on the Northwest french fry processors and chippers have incorporated many varieties developed

### Idaho

Ranger Russet, Umatilla Russet, and Western Russet were all in the top five varieties produced in 2011, accounting for 17% of the acreage planted.

### Oregon

Umatilla Russet, Ranger Russet, Alturas, and Premier Russet were all in the top ten varieties produced in 2011, accounting for 36%, up 5 percent from 2010.



west potato industry has been substantial. The fresh market industry, led through the Tri-State variety development program into their businesses.

## Washington

Umatilla Russet, Ranger Russet, Alturas, and Premier Russet were all in the top ten varieties produced in 2011, accounting for 39% of the acreage planted.



Teton Russet

## Nationwide

Russet cultivars released from the Tri-State program, with their rank in 2011.

- Ranger Russet, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Umatilla Russet, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Alturas, 6<sup>th</sup>
- Premier Russet, 10<sup>th</sup>
- Bannock Russet, 13<sup>th</sup>
- Western Russet, 20<sup>st</sup>
- Alpine Russet, 23<sup>th</sup>

Russets - Processing

Ranger Russet 1991  
Umatilla Russet 1998  
Highland Russet 2006  
Alpine Russet 2008  
Palisade Russet 2011

Russets - Fresh Pack

Century Russet 1995  
Klamath Russet 2000  
A84180-8 2008

Russets - Dual Purpose

Frontier Russet 1990  
Russet Legend 1998  
Bannock Russet 1999  
Gem Russet 2000  
Wallowa Russet 2002  
Summit Russet 2003  
Western Russet 2004  
GemStar Russet 2004  
Blazer Russet 2005  
Premier Russet 2006  
Gallatin Russet 2007  
Classic Russet 2008  
Clearwater Russet 2008  
Owyhee Russet 2009  
Teton Russet 2011

Long White— Dehy/Process

Alturas 2002  
Defender 2004

Chippers

GemChip 1989  
Ivory Crisp 2002  
Willamette 2003  
Yukon Gem 2006

Specialty

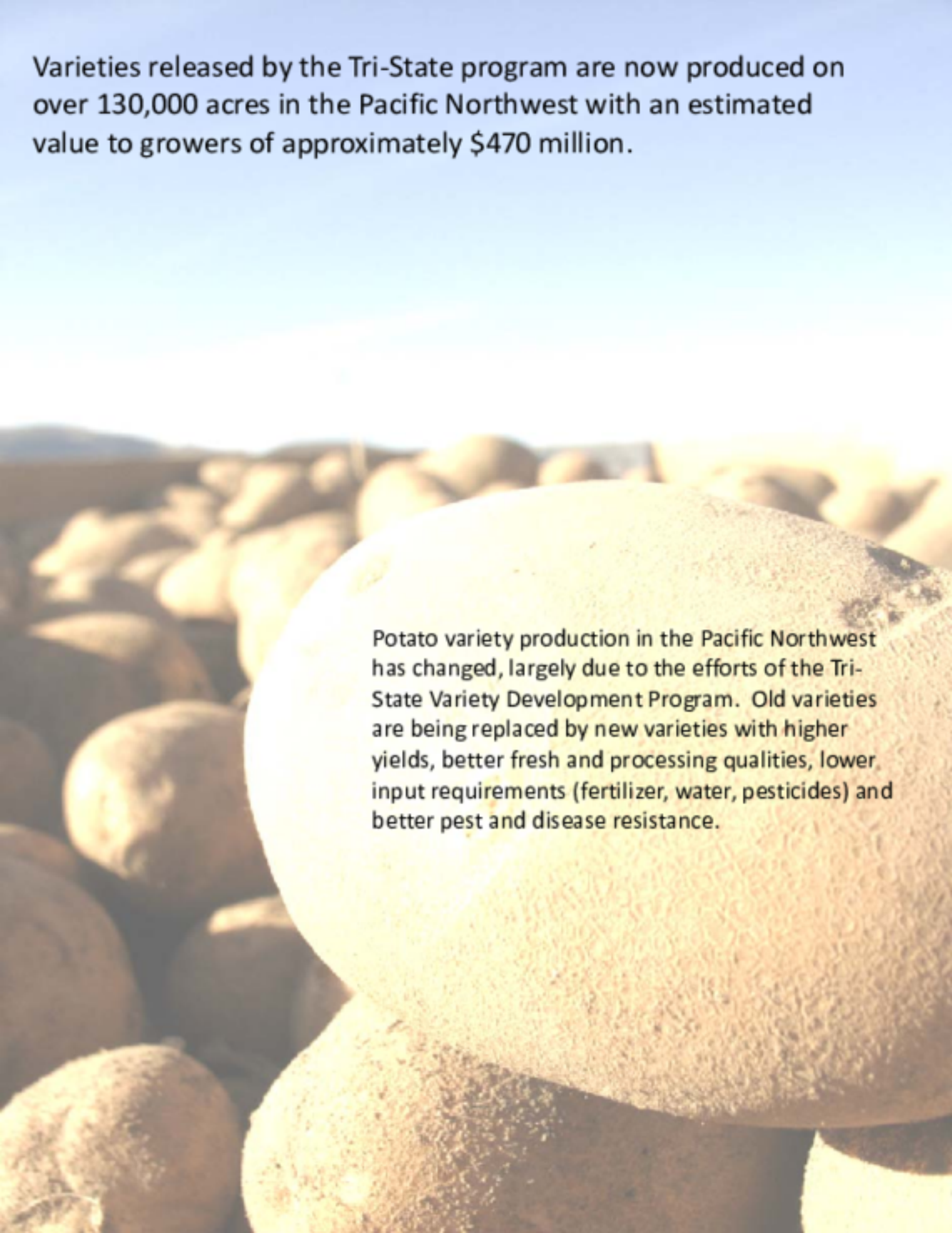
Purple Pelisse 2009  
AmaRosa 2009  
Huckleberry Gold 2011

Yellows

Yukon Gem 2006  
Yukon Nugget 2012

Red Skin—Fresh Pack

IdaRose 2000  
Mazama 2000  
Winema 2000  
Modoc 2003  
Crimson Red 2009  
Red Sunset 2009



Varieties released by the Tri-State program are now produced on over 130,000 acres in the Pacific Northwest with an estimated value to growers of approximately \$470 million.

Potato variety production in the Pacific Northwest has changed, largely due to the efforts of the Tri-State Variety Development Program. Old varieties are being replaced by new varieties with higher yields, better fresh and processing qualities, lower input requirements (fertilizer, water, pesticides) and better pest and disease resistance.

# Tri State Potato Research and Breeding Program Tomorrow



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## PVMI

In 2005, the potato commissions in WA, OR, and ID launched the Potato Variety Management Institute (PVMI) to market and promote Tri-State potato varieties. It is a non-profit, grower-controlled organization to provide the infrastructure so that license and royalty fees for the new varieties could be put back into the research and breeding program.

PVMI is helping to maximize the potential success of new varieties by providing information regarding variety features and management to growers and industry.

Since its inception PVMI has returned \$500,000 to the program. This is expected to increase with the adoption of new varieties.

For more information you can call (541) 318 1485, email [jeannedebons@msn.com](mailto:jeannedebons@msn.com) or go to [www.pvmi.org](http://www.pvmi.org).

