



# Idaho Potatoes

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
Idaho Field Office • PO Box 1699 • Boise, Idaho 83701

(800) 691-9987 • (208) 334-1507 • (208) 334-1114 FAX • [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)



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Media Contact: Vince Matthews

## IDAHO RUSSET POTATO SIZE AND GRADE SUMMARY – 2012 CROP

The statistics in this publication were obtained from the 2012 Potato Objective Yield Survey. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service would like to thank all growers who allowed the enumerators to dig samples in their fields. Without the voluntary cooperation of the farmers themselves, obtaining valid and timely agricultural statistics would be much more difficult. Because the samples of potatoes were dug by hand, the size and grade statistics in this document do not reflect harvesting or handling damage.

The survey results showed for the 2012 crop, 32.9 percent of the russet potatoes were at least ten ounces, up from 25.6 percent that reached that size in 2011 and 20.0 percent that reached that size in 2010. Of the Russet potatoes in the 2012 sample, 80.8 percent met the 2.0 inch or 4 oz. minimum size and grade requirements for U.S. No. 1 potatoes, up from 80.2 percent last year. Processing grade and U.S. No. 2 potatoes, with a 1.5 inch minimum, accounted for 18.0 percent of the 2012 crop.

### PROCEDURE

The 2012 Potato Objective Yield Survey consisted of 211 samples located throughout Idaho in fields selected in an unbiased manner. The selection of sample fields was based on all known potato acreage planted in 2012, with each acre having an equal chance of being chosen. As a result, growers with large acreages were more likely to be selected to participate in this survey. Several sample fields with varieties other than Russet were selected, but only the reports with Russet potatoes were used to compile the data in Tables 1 and 2. For each sample field, two plots were systematically located using computer generated random numbers. Each plot consisted of a twenty-foot section of a row. Digging of all samples occurred immediately preceding harvest or when all vines had died and growth of the tubers was no longer possible. Three hills of potatoes from each twenty-foot row section were carefully dug, counted, weighed, and then graded according to U.S.D.A. standards. Potatoes less than 1.5 inches in diameter were excluded from this procedure. To measure the harvest loss, post-harvest gleanings were taken for every fourth sample. The gleaning area consisted of two 3-by-6-foot plots, located five paces and five row space equivalents beyond the plots where the potato hills were dug. All potatoes and potato pieces, except whole potatoes less than 1.5 inches in diameter, were collected, weighed, and graded. Geographic distribution of the 2012 sample fields is shown in the following table.

AREA	COUNTIES	NUMBER OF SAMPLE PLOTS
Southwest	Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington	24
South Central	Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka & Twin Falls	58
Eastern	Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Oneida & Power	97
Eastern Seed Counties	Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Lemhi & Teton	32

**TABLE 1 – IDAHO RUSSET POTATOES: SIZE AND GRADE – 2012 CROP <sup>1/</sup>**

AREA AND GRADE	1½" - 1½"	1½" - 1½"	1½" - 2"	2" or 4-6 Oz	6-7 Oz	7-8 Oz	8-9 oz	9-10 oz	10-11 Oz	11-12 oz	12-13 Oz	13-14 oz	14 oz and over	Total
Percentages (%)														
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	20.0	8.4	8.8	6.3	6.1	6.1	5.2	3.9	2.9	12.1	79.8
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1½" min) <sup>3/</sup>	1.1	4.9	3.5	1.0	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.5	3.5	19.2
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	1.0
TOTAL.....	1.2	5.0	3.6	21.3	9.1	9.5	7.4	6.9	6.9	5.8	4.2	3.4	15.7	100.0
<b>EASTERN COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	22.3	8.6	8.2	7.1	6.0	4.8	4.8	3.9	3.0	11.7	80.4
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1½" min) <sup>3/</sup>	1.4	6.0	4.5	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.3	2.1	18.3
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	1.3
TOTAL.....	1.5	6.1	4.7	23.7	9.3	8.7	7.6	6.6	5.3	5.0	4.2	3.4	13.9	100.0
<b>EASTERN SEED COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	24.8	10.4	7.7	8.8	6.6	6.7	4.7	3.9	2.5	10.5	86.6
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1½" min) <sup>3/</sup>	0.9	4.0	4.0	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.3	12.6
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	-	-	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	0.8
TOTAL.....	0.9	4.0	4.1	25.5	10.8	8.1	9.4	7.1	6.9	4.8	4.0	2.6	11.8	100.0
<b>TOTAL OTHER COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	21.9	8.8	8.4	7.0	6.1	5.6	4.9	3.9	2.9	11.6	81.1
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1½" min) <sup>3/</sup>	1.2	5.3	4.1	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	2.5	17.8
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1	1.1
TOTAL.....	1.3	5.4	4.2	23.1	9.4	8.9	7.8	6.8	6.1	5.3	4.2	3.3	14.2	100.0
<b>10 SOUTHWEST COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	19.7	9.5	8.7	7.0	6.8	7.4	4.1	3.1	2.4	3.8	72.5
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1½" min) <sup>3/</sup>	1.3	4.1	4.0	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.8	3.2	25.7
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	1.8
TOTAL.....	1.4	4.4	4.2	21.5	11.1	10.2	8.7	8.8	9.0	5.1	4.2	4.4	7.0	100.0
<b>STATE</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	21.8	8.8	8.4	7.2	6.2	5.6	4.8	3.9	2.9	11.3	80.9
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1½" min) <sup>3/</sup>	1.2	5.3	4.1	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	2.5	18.0
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1	1.1
TOTAL.....	1.3	5.4	4.2	23.1	9.5	8.9	7.9	6.9	6.2	5.2	4.2	3.3	13.9	100.0

<sup>1/</sup> Gross yield basis. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

<sup>2/</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

<sup>3/</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, or Process grade.

<sup>4/</sup> Potatoes not meeting the requirements for U.S. #1 or U.S. #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, or Process grade.

**TABLE 2 – IDAHO RUSSET POTATOES: SIZE AND GRADE – 2011 CROP <sup>1/</sup>**

AREA AND GRADE	1 1/2" - 1 5/8"	1 5/8" - 1 7/8"	1 7/8" - 2"	2" or 4-6 oz	6-7 Oz	7-8 Oz	8-9 oz	9-10 oz	10-11 Oz	11-12 oz	12-13 Oz	13-14 Oz	14 oz and over	Total
	Percentages (%)													
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	23.1	8.7	8.2	9.2	6.4	5.2	3.7	3.2	2.6	10.4	80.7
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 1/2" min) <sup>3/</sup>	1.3	5.5	4.5	1.3	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.1	2.0	17.4
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	-	-	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.9
TOTAL.....	1.4	5.7	4.6	24.9	9.3	8.8	9.4	6.8	5.9	4.2	3.7	2.8	12.6	100.0
<b>EASTERN COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	26.1	10.3	9.4	7.5	6.0	5.4	3.8	3.8	2.2	6.7	81.2
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 1/2" min) <sup>3/</sup>	1.2	6.4	4.7	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.7	17.4
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	-	1.4
TOTAL.....	1.3	6.6	4.9	27.6	10.8	9.8	7.9	6.4	5.7	4.2	4.0	2.4	8.4	100.0
<b>EASTERN SEED COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	30.0	8.2	8.6	5.4	5.3	3.1	3.3	2.5	2.5	7.2	76.1
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 1/2" min) <sup>3/</sup>	1.3	9.5	6.5	1.0	0.5	0.1	-	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.2	21.3
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.2	0.5	0.3	1.2	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	-	2.6
TOTAL.....	1.5	10.0	6.8	32.2	8.8	8.8	5.4	5.8	3.3	3.4	2.7	2.9	8.4	100.0
<b>TOTAL OTHER COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	25.9	9.5	8.8	7.7	6.0	5.0	3.7	3.3	2.4	7.9	80.2
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 1/2" min) <sup>3/</sup>	1.3	6.7	4.9	1.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.7	18.2
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.1	1.6
TOTAL.....	1.4	6.9	5.1	27.6	10.0	9.2	8.0	6.4	5.4	4.1	3.6	2.6	9.7	100.0
<b>10 SOUTHWEST COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	23.3	9.1	6.7	9.3	5.7	5.2	4.2	4.1	2.2	9.4	79.2
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 1/2" min) <sup>3/</sup>	1.1	5.0	3.9	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.2	3.0	19.1
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	-	-	-	0.2	0.2	-	-	0.4	1.7
TOTAL.....	1.2	5.2	4.1	24.9	10.0	7.6	9.8	6.5	6.3	4.8	4.4	2.4	12.8	100.0
<b>STATE</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	25.8	9.5	8.7	7.8	6.0	5.0	3.7	3.4	2.4	7.9	80.2
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 1/2" min) <sup>3/</sup>	1.3	6.6	4.9	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.8	18.2
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.1	1.6
TOTAL.....	1.4	6.8	5.1	27.4	10.0	9.2	8.1	6.4	5.4	4.1	3.7	2.6	9.8	100.0

<sup>1/</sup> Gross yield basis. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

<sup>2/</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

<sup>3/</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, or Process grade.

<sup>4/</sup> Potatoes not meeting the requirements for U.S. #1 or U.S. #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, or Process grade.

**TABLE 3 – IDAHO POTATOES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF HILLS PER ACRE BY TYPE 2011 & 2012 CROPS<sup>1/</sup>**

TYPE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES		AVERAGE NUMBERS OF HILLS PER ACRE	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
Reds	5	6	17,571	18,368
Whites	6	5	11,790	12,828
Yellows	(D)	3	(D)	13,110
Russets	209	197	12,906	12,615

<sup>1/</sup> Based on row measurements and counts in potato fields selected for objective yield samples.

(D) Insufficient number of reports to publish data for 2011.

**TABLE 4 – IDAHO ALL POTATOES: QUANTITY LEFT IN FIELD AFTER HARVEST – 2011 & 2012 CROPS<sup>1/</sup>**

AREA	2011 CROP		2012 CROP	
	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	CWT PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	CWT PER ACRE
Southwest	7	26	6	45
South Central	12	34	15	20
Eastern	21	29	23	24
Seed Co.'s	4	23	3	29
STATE	44	30	47	26

<sup>1/</sup> Potatoes left in the field at time of harvest. Based on counts in potato fields selected for post harvest samples.

**TABLE 5 - LONG POTATO SIZE CATEGORIES – SELECTED STATES: 2012<sup>1/</sup>**

STATE	1½"	1 5/8"	1 7/8"	2" or 4-6 oz	6-7 oz	7-8 Oz	8-9 oz	9-10 oz	10-11 oz	11-12 Oz	12-13 Oz	13-14 Oz	14 oz and over
	Percentages (%)												
ID 2/ <sup>2/</sup>	1.3	5.4	4.2	23.1	9.5	8.9	7.9	6.9	6.2	5.2	4.2	3.3	13.9
MN	2.3	9.4	6.2	31.4	10.0	10.0	7.7	6.1	4.0	3.9	2.2	1.6	5.2
ND	1.6	6.7	4.6	26.2	10.1	10.0	7.3	7.0	5.7	4.6	3.9	2.7	9.6
OR	1.2	3.9	3.6	23.3	10.1	9.8	8.3	7.9	5.7	5.1	5.0	3.4	12.7
WA 3/ <sup>3/</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WI	0.7	5.9	6.2	24.1	10.4	9.6	9.1	7.4	5.2	4.6	3.2	3.0	10.6

<sup>1/</sup> Gross yield basis. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. Includes Russet, Shepody, Prospect, and Defender varieties unless otherwise noted.  
<sup>2/</sup> Russets only.

<sup>3/</sup> Data for Washington not available yet.

**TABLE 6 – FALL POTATO GRADING CATEGORIES BY TYPE – SELECTED STATES: 2011 AND 2012<sup>1/</sup>**

AREA AND GRADE	U.S. NO. 1 2 INCH MINIMUM 2/ <sup>2/</sup>		U.S. NO. 2 OR PROCESSING USABLE 2/ <sup>2/</sup>		CULL 3/ <sup>3/</sup>	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	Percentages (%)					
LONG POTATOES 4/ <sup>4/</sup>						
ID 5/ <sup>5/</sup>	80.2	80.9	18.2	18.0	1.6	1.1
ME 6/ <sup>6/</sup>	66.9	83.1	15.2	7.1	17.9	9.8
MN	56.9	59.6	35.1	28.2	8.0	12.2
ND	60.6	66.1	32.5	23.6	6.9	10.3
OR	84.9	84.3	14.1	14.6	1.0	1.1
WA 7/ <sup>7/</sup>	87.8	-	10.9	-	1.3	-
WI	77.0	82.5	22.5	17.1	0.5	0.4

<sup>1/</sup> Gross yield basis. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

<sup>2/</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #1 or U.S. #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, or Process grade.

<sup>3/</sup> Potatoes not meeting the requirements for U.S. #1 or U.S. #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, or Process grade.

<sup>4/</sup> Includes Russet, Shepody, Prospect, and Defender varieties unless otherwise indicated.

<sup>5/</sup> Russet potatoes only.

<sup>6/</sup> Percent of net yield – adjusted for harvest loss.

<sup>7/</sup> Data for Washington not available yet.