We have changed our name but our ‘World Service’ newsletter will still give our international potato contacts the same seed potato-related news, information and technical updates.

Seed potatoes from Great Britain

Great Britain’s seed potato industry produces around 600k tonnes of seed potatoes each year, of which around 120k tonnes are exported to over 50 countries worldwide.

Most seed is exported to destinations outside the EU, where our Top Three markets are Egypt, Morocco and Israel, with our Top Three exported varieties currently being Hermes, Desiree and Cara.

GB’s seed sector is formed from a highly professional and experienced grower base throughout the supply chain. GB seed has a high health status, thanks to our government’s strict certification scheme and a ‘flush-through’ system which ensures GB seed is always produced from quarantined, disease-free stock.

GB seed potatoes enjoy freedom from plant health issues such as Ring Rot, Brown Rot and – in Scotland – Dickeya, which is seen as increasingly important in our key markets.

The Safe Haven scheme, set up over 10 years ago to protect GB’s national seed crop, ensures Safe Haven growers produce - and their customers can purchase - seed potatoes that have been produced under even tighter plant health protocols. Currently, around 60% of GB seed potatoes are produced under the scheme and the importance of Safe Haven is becoming increasingly recognised in more importing companies each year. In fact, the Falkland Islands have allowed GB seed potatoes to be imported solely on the strength of the scheme’s robust phyto-sanitary protocols.

Robert Burns, head of seed and export for AHDB Potatoes advises “Those looking for extra protection can rely on Safe Haven, the voluntary certification scheme that follows strict protocols to ensure the very highest standards. Anyone wishing to source Safe Haven seed should ask their usual British supplier, or ask us for more information.”

AHDB Potatoes works closely year-round with government export liaison officials to open up new country markets for GB seed, with Cuba being a recent (re)addition to our international ‘client list’. Cuba has been able to release land back into increased potato production and this has led to a re-introduction of GB seed potatoes going into this exciting and potentially large Caribbean region.

Surveys are carried out in support of Scottish legislation (Scotland produces over 80% of GB’s exported seed) where a ‘nil’ tolerance is in place for Dickeya infections in seed crops. The 2014/2015 post-harvest potato tuber survey was completed in April 2015 and, once again, demonstrates Scotland’s continued freedom from Dickeya. Similar good news came through about Ring Rot and Brown Rot, with the annual tuber survey, required by the EU, at the end of May 2015 showing that all tested samples came back negative. AHDB Potatoes works perennially with government plant health officials and the seed industry to maintain GB seed’s high health status.
Visit GB seed potato and science stand at Potato Europe

Importers and growers looking to buy high health, high quality seed are invited to visit AHDB Potatoes GB seed stand at Potato Europe (Kain/Tournai, Belgium, September 2-3, 2015). Our stand helps international seed buyers and importers connect with experienced exporters of quality British seed.

“GB seed is high health and high quality,” says AHDB Potatoes head of seed and export, Robert Burns. “Potato Europe is one of the leading international potato industry events which attracts thousands of industry visitors worldwide, helping keep growers keep up-to-date with the latest market developments and meet potential new suppliers.”

On the AHDB Potatoes stand at Potato Europe, in addition to meeting growers and exporters, visitors will meet GB’s crop science and storage specialists who can offer knowledge, advice and recommendations about seed, varieties and crop storage.

“Seed growers in Britain have the expertise to produce the right variety for the target market, and GB seed is successfully grown in over 50 countries,” explains Robert.

Cullen Allen can trace its trading history back to 1870, and is one of the longest established potato businesses in the UK, specialising in production and marketing of seed potatoes from Scotland and N. Ireland.

We work closely with our ware potato suppliers to market local potatoes and imported new potatoes from Cyprus and Spain. We offer seed and table potatoes, export and import services, breeding expertise, variety trials, new variety marketing and mini-tubers.

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www.cullenallen.co.uk

Skea Organics specialises in growing and marketing organic produce, especially seed potatoes, ware potatoes and vegetables.

The Scottish climate allows the company to produce seed with very low levels of disease, even without chemicals.

As well as a wide range of non-organic heritage varieties with specific appearance and taste characteristics, Skea Organics supplies organic seed potatoes predominantly to growers in the UK, Ireland and Germany and is keen to find new customers in Europe where its seed quality will offer benefits to growers.

Skea Organics Ltd, East Mains Farm, Auchterhouse, Dundee, Scotland DD3 0QN
Contact: Andrew Skea
Tel: +44 (0) 1382 320 453
Email: andrew@skea.eu
www.skea.eu
MEET THESE ORGANISATIONS ON THE GB STAND AT POTATO EUROPE IN SEPTEMBER:

Some of the biggest and most progressive potato companies from the British potato industry will be at Potato Europe on the AHDB Potatoes stand in the main trade marquee.

**Breeder/exporter**
Cygnet PEP’s development program tests new varieties in wide ranging conditions from the desert heat of north Africa and the middle east, to the warm humid conditions of south east Asia and the relatively varied conditions across Europe.

Cygnet PEP’s main seed producers and facilities are based within the safe haven of Scotland where high grade seed is grown, graded, quality controlled and exported.

Cygnet PEP Ltd.
Blairfield, Milnathort, Tayside, Scotland UK KY13 0SG
Contact: Alasdair MacLennan
Tel: +44 (0) 1777 867 997
Email: alasdair@cygnetpep.com
www.cygnetpep.com

**Breeder/exporter**
Greenvale AP is one of the UK’s leading potato companies with three state-of-the-art pack houses, trading offices in the major potato growing regions of the UK as well as specialised early potato production in Jersey and Cornwall.

A fully integrated service is provided with an innovative and exclusive range of own and free varieties. Greenvale AP has its own breeding partnership, growing operation, storage solutions, thriving seed export business based in Scotland and provides first class technical support to its growers and customers.

Greenvale AP Ltd.
Springfield, Burrelton Blairgowrie, Perthshire, Scotland PH13 9PJ
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Tel: +44 (0) 1828 670 343
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Email: james.thorburn@greenvale.co.uk
www.greenvale.co.uk

**Breeder/exporter**
IPM Potato Group Limited, exporter of protected varieties from the UK. Seed potato company in Ireland and the largest production and marketing of services to the potato industry including the development of plant pathogen diagnostics and research into potato diseases.

IPM Potato Group Limited, Exporter of protected varieties from the UK.
Head of Office: IPM Potato Group Limited, Unit 412, O House, 76 Furze Road, Sandyford Industrial Estate, Dublin 18, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0) 1 213 5410
Fax: +353 (0) 1 295 8035
Email: info@ipmpotato.com
www.ipmpotato.com

**Breeder/exporter**
Jeffrey Lynn Herbs, UK’s leading grower of culinary herbs and associated vegetables.
Grown, harvested, transported and merchandised. Synonymous with quality. Quality is our hallmark.

Jeffrey Lynn Herbs Ltd.
Head Office: Jeffrey Lynn Herbs, Unit 412, O House, 76 Furze Road, Sandyford Industrial Estate, Dublin 18, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0) 1 213 5410
Fax: +353 (0) 1 295 8035
Email: info@jeffrey-lynn-herbs.com
www.jeffrey-lynn-herbs.com

**Government/institutions**
SASA, a division of Scottish Government, provides science and advice for Scottish agriculture and is the certifying authority for seed potato production in Scotland.

Additionally, SASA liaises with importing countries regarding phyto-sanitary conditions for seed potato production in Scotland.

SASA’s activities include high-tech diagnostic services and potato research programmes.

Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture, Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, Scotland EH12 9FJ
Contact: John Ellicott
Tel: +44 (0) 131 244 8963
Fax: +44 (0) 131 244 8920
Email: john.ellicott@sasa.gsi.gov.uk
www.sasa.gov.uk

**Crop research/breeder**
JHM is one of the UK’s leading potato companies with three state-of-the-art pack houses, trading offices in the major potato growing regions of the UK as well as specialised early potato production in Jersey and Cornwall.

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**Storage research**
Sutton Bridge CSR is the leading centre for independent potato storage research in Europe. It is renowned for its expertise in storage research, knowledge transfer and consultancy services.

For enquiries relating to crop storage, visit us on the AHDB Potatoes stand at Potato Europe 2015 or contact us at:

Sutton Bridge Crop Storage Research, East Bank, Sutton Bridge, Spalding, Lincolnshire, England PE12 9YD
Contact: Adrian Cunnington
Tel: +44 (0) 1406 351 444
Email: adrian.cunnington@ahdb.org.uk
www.suttonbridge.com

Sutton Bridge CSR is operated by AHDB Potatoes, a division of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB).
Variety database keeps growers up-to-date

Potato growers wanting information on the latest GB variety developments need look no further than the Potato Variety Database, a highly detailed source of independent information, jointly managed by AHDB Potatoes and SASA.

"The database contains all the information growers need when deciding which varieties to grow that will best suit their potato business, both physically and in terms of marketability," says AHDB Potatoes’ Sophie Lock.

"It is a dynamic resource. We constantly add new data, such as latest variety additions, which allows growers to stay up-to-date."

Growers can find out where to obtain the varieties they need. "Varieties subject to plant breeders’ rights will flag up the breeder’s agent on that variety page," Sophie explains. "With freely-available varieties, growers simply click on a link to the Scottish or English Seed Potato Registers to find a list of British seed producers who are growing that variety."

Growers can see pin-sharp images of all the varieties. Each has an accompanying picture of tubers, and many also include foliage and flower images and more will be added as they become available.

"The Potato Variety Database really is a one-stop shop for anyone looking for up-to-date variety information. The site has had almost 150,000 visitor hits since its launch."

Sophie Lock

Checklist of features

- Search for varieties by name or by the characteristics you require
- Compare independent resistance data for varieties that have undergone IVT procedures
- Obtain grower, breeder and breeders’ agent contact details to source seed and varieties
- See lists of varieties, images, variety breeders, seed marketing agents and related industry organisations
- Find out about the advantages of British seed potatoes, the seed potato classification schemes (SPCS) and the Safe Haven scheme

Additional new features

- View varieties outwith the IVT testing procedures (data supplied by breeder)
- View character sets: dormancy, dry matter, determinacy and cooking type
- Simplified search facility
- Compare two varieties on one screen
- Download variety data into Excel
- Mobile device-compatible

Variety Focus:

Cara

Description
Robust, high-yielding and uniform.

Use
Cara is a versatile potato, suitable for baking, boiling, mashing, steaming.

Resistance data
Independent tests demonstrate resistance to late blight on foliage and tubers, Silver Scurf, common scab, potato virus Yo, bruising and splitting.

Cara is resistant to potato cyst nematode (PCN) and Globodera rostochiensis R01.

Useful weblinks
- Potato Variety Database (GB): varieties.ahdb.org.uk
- Independent Variety Trials: sasa.gov.uk/plant-variety-testing/potatoes/independent-variety-trials-ivt
- AHDB Potatoes events: potato.org.uk/events
- Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA): sasa.gov.uk/seed-ware-potatoes/potato-exports
- Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA): gov.uk/the-seed-potato-classification-scheme

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