

PRESS INFORMATION

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UPDATE: POTATO PLANTINGS BY VARIETY IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 2015

AHDB Potatoes has now produced provisional estimates of planted areas by variety for Great Britain for 2015. These are shown in Table 1 with comparisons to the five previous seasons.

The total planted area for GB is now estimated at **111,600 ha¹**. This revises downward the end-June provisional estimate of 113,100 ha. The area update has been made following the incorporation of additional data, and is based on returns covering 89% of the registered area. The end-June estimate was based on 64% of registered area. The updated 2015 area estimate is down 7.8% on the final 2014 planting of 121,100 ha.

Table 1 shows the top-50 most common varieties that account for 84% of total GB area. The multipurpose variety *Maris Piper* remains the dominant variety, accounting for 15% of the planted area and is used in the pre-packing, fresh-chipping and processing sectors.

Compared to 2010 year, *Melody* (up 4 places to 5th) is the only new variety in the top 5. Other varieties moving up the rankings for GB as a whole since 2010 have included *Pentland Dell* (up 6 places to 8th), *Innovator* (up 10 places to 13th) and *Agria* (up 15 places to 16th).

The big fallers since 2010 include *Saturna* (down 30 places to 40th), *Premiere* (down 20 places to 38th) and *Saxon* (down 16 to 27th).

In Scotland, the mix of varieties is slightly different although *Maris Piper* is again ranked first. Others in the top 5, in order, are: *Rooster*, *Hermes*, *Maris Peer* and *Cultra*. In Wales, *Maris Piper* has overtaken *Estima* to become the most popular variety.

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1. This estimate is based on survey evidence, and is subject to survey error. The final figure may change (most likely within a range of +/- 700 hectares) as the result of further grower returns.

Table 1: GB Plantings by Variety 2010-15*Areas in hectares. 2015 estimates are provisional as at mid-August 2015.*

Rank order	Variety	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015			
							England	Scotland	Wales	Total [‡]
1	Maris Piper	22,935	20,780	19,301	18,213	17,627	12,677	4,285	175	17,137
2	Markies	7,132	7,415	7,520	6,988	7,353	5,980	†	†	6,426
3	Maris Peer	5,881	5,669	6,480	6,191	5,250	3,534	1,242	29	4,805
4	Lady Rosetta	6,831	6,764	6,525	7,101	6,119	3,651	171	32	3,854
5	Melody	3,842	4,534	3,749	3,718	3,615	3,451	80	92	3,623
6	Estima	8,723	7,954	5,958	4,420	4,243	2,939	173	150	3,262
7	Hermes	4,107	4,778	4,580	3,457	3,123	†	1,717	†	2,895
8	Pentland Dell	3,056	2,925	3,139	2,998	2,560	2,437	279	-	2,716
9	Marfona	4,180	4,369	3,384	3,313	3,066	2,189	147	43	2,379
10	Harmony	3,966	3,656	3,781	3,807	3,392	1,724	†	†	2,313
11	Rooster	2,710	1,841	1,771	1,991	1,877	387	1,883	-	2,270
12	King Edward	3,160	3,103	2,817	2,737	2,253	1,776	439	41	2,255
13	Innovator	1,282	1,401	1,295	1,556	2,062	1,808	174	-	1,981
14	Royal	†	194	392	679	952	1,657	187	-	1,845
15	Taurus	-	-	114	602	974	1,661	†	†	1,811
16	Agria	766	1,048	1,169	2,054	1,662	1,795	-	-	1,795
17	Nectar	135	376	605	836	1,070	1,653	59	†	1,725
18	Charlotte	1,973	2,036	1,996	1,868	1,801	1,151	418	56	1,625
19	Sagitta	192	375	674	1,016	1,310	1,531	76	†	1,609
20	Challenger	-	452	735	978	1,322	1,514	†	†	1,528
21	Russet Burbank	1,671	1,809	1,864	1,787	1,666	1,354	†	†	1,524
22	Desiree	3,167	3,012	2,801	2,528	1,993	985	477	13	1,475
23	Fontane	1,538	2,121	2,100	1,921	1,464	1,353	28	-	1,382
24	VR 808	-	67	161	907	1,269	1,203	126	†	1,361
25	Arsenal	-	-	18	460	1,152	1,242	106	-	1,348
26	Cabaret	1,945	2,078	1,902	1,830	1,635	1,100	176	-	1,276
27	Saxon	3,261	2,821	2,040	1,737	1,515	532	690	-	1,222
28	Cultra	1,167	1,367	1,425	1,654	1,522	11	1,143	-	1,153
29	Accord	1,197	1,023	950	864	1,031	1,091	21	27	1,139
30	Osprey	1,461	1,578	1,664	1,666	1,495	-	1,095	-	1,095
31	Wilja	1,319	1,154	1,138	1,173	1,106	837	220	14	1,072
32	Ramos	†	666	776	1,194	1,463	967	60	-	1,027
33	Shepody	1,047	1,047	979	848	819	856	137	-	992
34	Electra	-	89	330	647	941	875	†	†	952
35	Lady Claire	1,025	937	1,076	1,075	1,202	905	43	-	948
36	Shelford	-	-	-	78	548	745	†	†	888
37	Amora	369	485	774	1,011	1,132	660	46	19	725
38	Premiere	1,699	1,444	1,226	870	644	635	†	†	702
39	Sylvana	†	621	814	985	1,176	420	256	-	677
40	Saturna	3,578	3,241	2,449	1,081	614	625	46	-	671
41	Mozart	313	369	538	552	572	629	17	-	646
42	Brooke	-	-	-	114	271	475	151	-	626
43	Saphire	242	358	328	482	493	566	53	-	619
44	Vivaldi	553	756	667	757	703	289	322	-	610
45	Maris Bard	867	996	841	740	695	514	†	†	570
46	Gemson	48	197	288	426	696	307	147	101	555
47	Vales Sovereign	729	804	834	459	608	158	369	-	528
48	Valor	511	436	455	680	691	†	395	†	464
49	Cara	458	462	482	510	436	†	390	†	441
50	Jelly	-	-	-	579	542	†	†	-	401
Sub-total[‡]		109,075	109,603	104,908	104,138	101,724	74,493	19,371	1,080	94,944
Other varieties		17,812	18,830	16,915	18,304	19,344	12,186	3,937	507	16,631
Total[‡]		126,887	128,433	121,823	122,442	121,068	86,679	23,308	1,587	111,575

† Unable to publish figure without risk of disclosure of data relating to individual farms. This is when the data relates to fewer than 3 growers.

Where the estimate for a variety in a region has been removed, the region with the second largest area has also been removed due to the GB total figure also being presented.

‡ Totals may not tally exactly due to rounding. - No area planted