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NUTRITIVE VALUE OF POTATOES

A Review

Factors Influencing the Nutritive Value of Potatoes—Minnesota Technical Bulletin 196, reports the work of eleven agricultural experiment stations and of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Contributions of North Dakota Experiment Station workers appear as follows:

On, "Effect of variety on ascorbic acid content", pp. 12-14. This reports ascorbic acid content of potatoes grown at Park River, North Dakota, in three successive years, 1942, 1943, and 1944. The Triumph variety was found to be significantly higher in "reduced ascorbic acid" than Irish Cobbler, N.D. 1, and Red Warba.

On, "Effect of crop year on ascorbic acid content", pp. 19-21. The three years 1942, 1943, and 1944 varied in precipitation and in length of growing season. The four varieties noted above showed mean moisture contents of 79.7%, 74.4%, and 77.4% in the three successive years. The reduced ascorbic acid mean values for the four varieties in the corresponding years, expressed as miligrams per 100 grams of dry weight, were 102.4, 101.0, and 116.8 respectively.

On, "Effect of maturity and storage on ascorbic acid content", pp. 24-28. The rapid rate of decrease in "reduced ascorbic acid" with increasing days in storage is clearly demonstrated.

On "Effect of maturity, variety, locality and storage on moisture content of potato tubers", p. 78. In three years trials of four varieties under comparable conditions, Triumph was significantly higher in moisture content than Irish Cobbler, Red Warba, and N.D. 1.

North Dakota Station staff members who contributed to the bulletin include Eunice Kelly, Human Nutritionist; Mrs. Darlene Knowles, formerly Human Nutritionist; F. W. Christensen, formerly Animal Nutritionist (deceased); Harold Mattson, Horticulturist; and M. L. Wegner, formerly Assistant Animal Nutritionist.

Other stations contributing to these studies included Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, Idaho, Illinois, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Texas. The research was under the general guidance of Dean Clyde H. Bailey of Minnesota as Regional Coordinator.

The Information Service of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station has a limited number of these available to North Dakotans only.— (H.L.W.).