

Potato Varieties Grown in North Dakota in 1945

By
HAROLD MATTSON¹

Cobbler and Triumph are the leading potato varieties grown in North Dakota. Equally popular they each contributed more than 10,000,000 bushels to the record crop of 23,660,000 bushels produced in North Dakota in 1945.

North Dakota ranked fourth in production of potatoes in 1945, following Maine (52,785,000 bu.), Idaho (44,220,000 bu.) and New York (28,970,000 bu.) (1). The 169,000 acres of potatoes harvested in North Dakota in 1945 produced an average yield of 140 bushels per acre (1).

This paper presents the writer's estimates of the production of the several potato varieties expressed in percent of the acreage harvested in 1945. Figures for the certified seed crop have been calculated from acreages reported in the North Dakota Seed Potato Certification List—1945 Crop (2). This material is summarized in table 1 which includes comments on the advantages and disadvantages of the individual varieties and comments on a number of newer varieties together with the date of introduction of each variety.

Approximately 75,000 acres of Cobbler and the same acreage of Triumph were grown in North Dakota in 1945. Nearly one-fourth of this acreage was approved for certification with 16,680 acres of Cobblers and 17,367 acres of Triumph meeting field requirements. The Triumph variety is widely used for seed in the Gulf States and the Cob-

bler is preferred for planting in the Corn Belt States.

Early Ohio, once the leading variety in this area, ranked third in production with 7,000 acres. White Rose, a late-maturing long white variety popular for seed in Pacific Coast states, was grown on about 1,700 acres. These old-time varieties were introduced between 1871 and 1881. Together they accounted for approximately 93 percent of the certified acreage and the same proportion of the total acreage.

New varieties in production and under trial

A number of varieties introduced between 1932 and 1938 are being grown commercially in North Dakota. In both certified and total production the mid-season varieties Pontiac and Chippewa made up 4 percent, the early varieties Red Warba and Warba about 2 percent, and the late-maturing varieties Kat-

¹Horticulturist

Table 1
Potato varieties grown in North Dakota in 1945

Variety	Approximate percentage of		Advantages in North Dakota	Disadvantages in North Dakota	Year released
	169,000 acres total acreage	37,461 acres certified seed acreage			
EARLY					
Red Warba	1.0	1.2	earliness-quality	rough tubers	1939
Warba	.5	.5	earliness-quality	rough tubers	1935
Early Ohio	4.0	.7	earliness-quality	knobs, growth cracks	1871
Triumph	44.0	46.3	earliness-quality	bruises easily	1875
Cobbler	44.0	44.5	earliness-quality	deep eyes, hollow heart	1876?
MID-SEASON					
Chippewa	1.0	1.4	smooth tubers	variable table quality	1933
Pontiac	3.0	2.7	yield	variable table quality	1933
LATE					
Katahdin	.5	.3	blight resistance seed demand	late maturity	1932
Sebago	.5	.3		late maturity	1933
White Rose	1.0	1.9		late maturity	1881?
Other varieties	.5	.2			

Ten other recently introduced varieties

Early	Introduced	Comments	Late	Introduced	Comments
Earlaine	1937	low yield	Erie	1942	variable
Mesaba	1938	low yield	Houma	1936	rough tubers
			Mohawk	1943	late
The following are resistant to:					
Mid-season			Menominee	1944	late blight and scab
Kasota	1943	red tubers	Potomac	1943	late blight and leaf hoppe
Pawnee	1942	flat tubers	Sequoia	1939	late blight and leaf hoppe

ahdin and Sebago about one percent of the total acreage. Thus these newer varieties were grown on 12,000 acres of which 2,400 were approved for certification.

Ten other recently-introduced varieties are being grown to a

limited extent for trial. They do not appear as well adapted as Cobbler and Triumph. Of these Earlaine and Mesaba are early, Kasota and Pawnee are mid-season, and Houma, Menominee, Mohawk, Potomac, and Sequoia are late-maturing varieties.

- (1.) Annual Summary—1945—Acreage, Yield, and Production of Principal Crops. Bureau Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Dec. 1945.
- (2.) North Dakota Seed Potato Certification List—1945 Crop. Bulletin No. 57. Seed Department, State of North Dakota. October, 1945.