

# NEBRASKA POTATO EYES

## Keeping an Eye on the Nebraska Potato Industry

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Alexander D. Pavlista, Editor  
Extension Potato Specialist

The second quarter of 1989 has drawn to a close. Planting is completed. The weather has been unpredictable, late frosts and dryness. Yet, the crop is doing well. The Nebraska Potato Eyes will be published quarterly and I hope that you have already found it useful. With this, the second issue, please send any suggestions and comments. The Nebraska Potato Eyes is for you and your input is essential. During the past few months, I have visited with more growers and I thank you for your help - Roger Cain, Greg Gilsdorf, and Lonnie Root, Allen Heikes, Jerry Kirwin, and Steve and Carol Roeder. I also extend my thanks to Ed Weaver, Jr., Mike Eisenhower, and Michael Kelley for their hospitality during my visit to Weaver's Potato Chip Co. My research trials, after being reviewed at the Nebraska Potato Council Meeting (May 12), are in place. I thank Diamond Hill Farms, Shaver Seed Farms, West Nebraska Potato Shippers, and Western Potatoes for their cooperation in both farm-site and station-site trials. The results of these trials - variety, fertilizer, growth regulator, fungicide and hilling - will be reported by the end of the year.

Please welcome aboard Dan Smith. Dan joined the Panhandle Research and Extension Center this April as the technician for the potato and vegetable programs. He was born and raised in Harrisburg, Nebraska. After graduating from UNL in 1986 with a BS in Agronomy, Dan worked as a Field Scout for Scientific Crop Advisory (Hastings, Nebraska), a Field Technician for Omni-Chem (Sacramento, California), and a Lab Supervisor for Western Sugar (Gering, Nebraska). Luke Ballard will be joining us again for the summer. Please extend congratulations to Luke who recently graduated from Western Nebraska Community College and will be attending the University of Wyoming this fall.

Joining the "staff" of Nebraska Potato Eyes is Gary Leever, our first columnist. He will be reporting quarterly updates on his and Kent Sather's certification inspections. The column's title is "Spudders"; look for it.

## ALDICARB UPDATE:

### NPC President's Comments, April 18, 1989

Michael Cranney,  
President  
National Potato Council, Oakley, Idaho

Your Executive Committee, representing your industry these past few weeks in regard to food safety and the Aldicarb issue, would like to compliment the industry as a whole for the positive response we have received and for everyone's cooperation. We have survived the adverse effects of the Aldicarb issue much better than it was earlier presumed possible. It was most fortunate that Ron Walker, our Executive Director, was in Washington, D. C. when the news broke. We were, with the help of our congressional representation, able to get a retraction from EPA within 24 hours from the time the news broke.

This statement was not strong enough, so we went to work to get a stronger retraction. Congressman Richard Stallings from Idaho sponsored a strong letter to EPA signed by 27 other congressional representatives and senators which urged immediate EPA action and a stronger retraction. Congressman Morrison of Washington and Stallings along with pressure from state associations and commissions helped us get a stronger statement from EPA.

Meanwhile, the National Potato Promotion Board (NPPB) and the NPC met in Denver to set up a coordinated program on how to approach the problem both short and long term. The conclusions of this meeting were:

1. It is imperative that our industry stays together on this issue and not fragment. The food safety issue will destroy all aspects of our industry if we do not act as one. Many are led to believe the short-term gain will benefit them; but the NRDC agenda of a chemical-free food supply will force us in the long run to stay together or self destruct.

2. Demand that EPA take the established tolerance for Aldicarb and other chemicals and stand up to the consumer, processor, and retailer and defend their standards. The FDA needs to test more often and improve the reporting of these tests to protect the producers and handlers as well as the consumer. USDA needs to step into the process and defend the EPA standards and the FDA testing. They need to assure consumers of the wholesomeness of potatoes and other produce as well. We need to know the truth about the food we eat. If we have problems that affect food safety, then producers need to be able to act quickly.

3. The NPC and the NPPB will work to educate the

producers and retail buyers of their responsibility to use a standard approach to the food safety issue. That being, EPA use the established tolerance levels to set the benchmark for the industry and the FDA continue to test for residue levels to protect the producer and the consumer. We need the users of our produce to support us with this stand. Many are using the food safety issue as a marketing tool, and this is a mistake. Over the long term it will destroy the produce industry. We have people out there that feel we can have an organic-grown, pesticide-free industry, which is not going to happen. The consumer would not be blessed with the quality and relatively inexpensive price that the produce industry now offers. We need them to stand up and be counted and not try to side step the pesticide issue any further. Our retailers and producers are more concerned than the consumers.

4. The agriculture community needs to step out and tell our story as national commodity groups, as state associations or commissions, and as producers who use Aldicarb or whatever chemical in our management program. We need to inform the public of the safe and nutritious food we produce. We need to be active politically to use our governmental agencies to help us tell the story.

We were in Washington, D. C. this past week, and we think our approach was well received. We were assured that the administration was trying to get the EPA, FDA, and USDA together and lay out a long-term approach to these types of problems. Our major concern now is getting everyone working together to solve the problem instead of fragmenting. This is a food safety issue, and should not be construed as a marketing device. Just remember, we all have special use chemicals; and we would be wise to work together for the benefit of our entire industry.

## Grower News: Wedding Bells

Congratulations, Nicholas C. Lapascotes (Connie and Christina's son), married Angela Regina Stull on June 18, at the Greek Orthodox Church in Bayard.

Congratulations, Ronald L. Thompson (Butch and Marge's son), married Chris Leth on April 22, at the Methodist Church in Central City.

We all wish the newlyweds the best and look forward to their silver anniversaries.

## SEED POTATO SEMINAR

The Seventh Annual North American Seed Potato Seminar was held on December 1-3, 1988, at the Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There were 24 speakers and moderators representing growers, processors, and University staffs. The following highlights are presented from two perspectives:

## A Grower's Viewpoint

*Eugene Kerschner  
Western Potatoes, Inc.  
Alliance, Nebraska*

1. Over 89 thousand acres were certified for seed in Canada in 1988.
2. Plant Genetics has patented two new varieties - Shasta, similar to Shepody, and Cal-ore, an early russet.
3. It takes 10 minutes to really disinfect. As a last resort, fumigation with chloropicrin (Chlor-O-Pic, Tri-Clor, et al.) could be used (0.3 lb per 1000 cu. ft. for 12 hours). Storage should be wetted with surfactant first.
4. Suberization for two to three days is sufficient for protection against bacterial infection, but, against fungal infection, a longer time is needed.
5. Avoid cutting cold seed and planting immediately.
6. Bruises are good hiding places for bacteria which survive the storage season without symptoms. New bruises during handling can activate the bacterial infection (rot). Healing is due to suberin formation. Suberin formation needs oxygen. If a watery film is present then tubers undergo oxygen deprivation in four hours. As tubers age in storage, they also lose the ability to form suberin.
7. During the past 18 years, potato chip consumption has increased 1.5%/year.
8. For Ore-Ida, potato defects has cost 15 million dollars to pay for labor and equipment. High solids are needed to reduce processing time, reduce oil consumption and increase product recovery. Sugars must be low to keep color quality.

## Through the Eyes of an Inspector

*Kent Sather  
Potato Certification Association of Nebraska  
Mitchell, Nebraska*

My participation in the Seed Seminar actually began a few days before the general meeting started. The Certification Section of P.A.A. had its annual meeting in Rhineland, Wisconsin just prior to the seed seminar. After driving from Milwaukee on near impassable, snowy roads for over six hours, our van did get to the destination. Potato Certification reps from all over the United States and Canada participated in this meeting. One main topic discussed was the comparison of the different states' Basic Seed Programs, their fundings and costs, and seed class once it left the program's increase. There is a wide variation of programs, but it boiled down to the grower's question of, "How many years out from tissue culture?"

After those meetings, we were treated to a tour of the Wisconsin State Seed Farm. They had just built a new facility for grading and storing the basic seed. Everything was cleaned, disinfected, and in order. It is well

supported by the growers who term it "Our farm". We then toured the seed growing area around Antigo, Wisconsin. I was impressed with the clean, neat farms, as well as the growers that were congenial business men wanting to know about other growing areas as well.

It was back to Milwaukee for the Seed Seminar. Topics ranged from tissue culture labs - state, private, and commercial - to factors affecting seed performance. If the topics weren't of interest, you could always find someone in the back room to discuss something else. I'll comment briefly on some topics:

Dr. Steve Slack of Cornell University presented an overview of Limited Generation. He defined some terms as follows:

Clone - Stock originating from a single plant whose identity has been maintained.

Basic Seed - Clonal stocks assessed for varietal type and purity and for freedom of disease.

Nuclear Seed - Basic seed originating from an in-vitro pathogen-tested source.

Foundation Seed - Stock originating from basic seed intended for replanting by seed growers.

Certified Seed - Stock originating from foundation seed intended for replanting by commercial growers.

Dr. Slack reviewed the evolution of the certification programs in North America from 1913 to the present day technology. The current concept of limited generations is important for several reasons. For example, tissue culture and pathogen test systems are a starting point for an increase of quality generations. I would like all the Nebraska growers to know that Nebraska does have a limited generation system. We term it a little different than Dr. Slack's definition but it allows for a seven year increase from tissue culture. Also, most of the seed grown is from tissue culture progeny, mostly produced in state.

Another speaker, Dr. Donald Sklarczyk spoke of the advantages of an on-farm tissue culture laboratory and greenhouse. He noted that ten years ago, the labs and greenhouses were just experimental on college campuses. There are now at least 39 on farm greenhouses and a potential of 11 more in the next two years. He claims there is a yield and quality difference within the lines placed in tissue culture. He also noted the cooperation of states and provinces to assist in the development of an on-farm operation. Mr. Sklarczyk discussed several other concerns of a lab and greenhouse operation. I was able to talk with him during some informal times, exchanged more ideas and information, and found him to be innovative, but practical as well.

The Seed Seminar was, as has been in the past, informative and fun. You meet people like you with problems like yours. You hear from the professors, companies, and growers. You make contacts and understand the potato

industry a little better. And, the Seed Seminar is not just for seed growers because much of the discussion carries over for the commercial grower. Plan for it next year.

## Idaho Potato School

*Alexander D. Pavlista*

*Extension Potato Specialist*

*University of Nebraska, Scottsbluff*

The 21st Idaho Potato School was held on January 24-26 in Pocatello, Idaho. The following are highlights taken from the Proceedings. Note, the Proceedings also cover other commodity schools, -- beans, cereals, forages, irrigation, onions, and sugarbeets.

Two varieties from the USDA-University of Idaho program are being released. One is for chipping and the other is an early russet. 1) Gemchip (BR7093-24) is a chipper for the northwest. It's specific gravity is about 1.090, consistently higher than Norchip. Chip color is like Norchip. Gemchip, however, is more susceptible to shatter and bruising. It is very susceptible to scab and tuber early blight and resistant to early dying and somewhat to foliar early blight. Tuber set is similar between Gemchip and Norchip. Gemchip produces more larger tubers, therefore, more US #1's. 2) A74114-4, unnamed as yet, is an early russet with a medium skin. Specific gravity is like R. Burbank and higher than R. Norkotah. It fries darker than R. Burbank. A74114-4 bakes and stores well, is resistant to scab and somewhat to most storage rot. Tuber set is usually low. Early harvest yields of A74114-4 are higher than for R. Burbank and R. Norkotah; in late harvest trials, its yields were lower than R. Burbank but still higher than R. Norkotah.

Seed potatoes, not being true seeds, present special problems. Richard Clarke, Area Manager for Idaho Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) reported on several areas of concern expressed by Idaho growers in 1988.

Diseases -- A) Leafroll is a virus transmitted by an aphid from potato to potato. In Idaho, 0.2% or two plants per 1000 (30 plants/acre) are allowed for seed certification. The economic threshold level in commercial fields is reported at about 2% (300 plants/acre). B) Bacterial ringrot (BRR), a devastating disease, is capable of surviving away from potatoes. A zero tolerance has been established. BRR remains a major seed potato problem. In Idaho during 1987 and 1988, less than 1% of the acreage was rejected for BRR. Improvement over previous years is related primarily to seed stock quality. C) Blackleg bacteria (*Erwinia*) are latent and disease expression is dependent on the seed piece's environment and on management practice. Recently, the bacteria have been found in irrigation water. At the North America Seed Potato Seminar, *Erwinia* was reported to be found on about 6% of the mini-tubers from private and commercial labs.

Other areas of concern include more information about

seed lot identity on tags and about the background of seed lots such as diseases found, field conditions and reasons for certification rejection.

Water and temperature stress promotes the incidence of "dark-ends", caramelization of part of a tuber during frying. Caramelization is due to the heating of high levels of reducing sugars at a particular location. Researchers at the Malheur Experimental Station in Oregon recommended the following to reduce this browning: 1. Rotate crops every four or more years with the crop previous to potatoes being wheat, corn, alfalfa, or another crop adding residue to the soil. Avoid planting potatoes after sugarbeets or onions. Incorporating crop residue reduces soil bulk density and promotes water infiltration. 2. Bed the land in the fall and reduce row width from 36 to 34 or even 32 inches. 3. Minimize water stress from tuber initiation to bulking without over irrigation.

Heat stress is a major factor in reducing yields, reducing specific gravity and promoting "dark ends". Rapid row closure for leaf shading of soil to reduce soil temperature was the principle suggestions to combat heat stress. Good irrigation management and the selection of varieties resistant to heat stress were also recommended. Russet Burbank is very sensitive to environmental stress.

### Reduction of Specific Gravity by Temperature, R. Burbank.

Air Temp F, Day/Night	Soil Temp F	Specific Gravity
77/54	61	1.101
	86	1.075
100/82	61	1.084
	86	1.050

Water stress also plays a major role in tuber quality. The following tables summarize the influence of low and high soil moisture on yield and quality of R. Burbank.

#### Potato Tales

John Dillinger reportedly escaped from prison by fashioning a pistol from a potato and dyeing it with iodine. (National Geographic, 1982)

### Early Season Soil Moisture

Factor	>80%	<50%
Total Yield	Increase?	Decrease
U.S. No. 1 Yield	Increase?	Decrease
>10 oz. Yield	No Effect	Decrease
Specific Gravity	No effect	Decrease
Hollow Heart	Increase	Decrease
Brown Center	Increase	Decrease
Translucent End	No Effect	Increase
Tuber No./Hill	No Effect	Decrease
Misshapen Tubers	No Effect	Increase
Common Scab	Decrease	Increase

Early Season = tuber initiation + 3 weeks

### Late Season Soil Moisture

Factor	>80%	50%
Total Yield	No Effect	No Effect
U.S. No. 1 Yield	No Effect	No Effect
>10 oz. Yield	No Effect	Decrease?
Specific Gravity	No Effect	No Effect
Brown Center	No Effect	No Effect
Hollow Heart	No Effect	No Effect
Translucent End	Decrease	Increase
Blackspot Bruise	Decrease	Increase
Shatter Bruise	Increase	Decrease
Water/Soft Rot	Increase	Decrease

Late Season = late August to harvest.  
Compared to 65% available soil moisture.

### Seed Certification News Update

Alexander Pavlista  
Extension Potato Specialist  
University of Nebraska, Scottsbluff

The Idaho Crop Improvement Association was ordered to pay a \$125,000 judgement because they falsified seed certification information. Senator Laird Noh, R-Kimberly, vice chairman of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Commit-

tee, has given a study group one year to analyze the problems and come up with solutions. The judgement against ICIA was a result of ignoring Potato Virus X tests that showed 1100 times the allowable limit and listing this seed as certified in the Potato Seed Directory. Noh feels that this was partially due to an unclear line of authority and responsibility for ensuring seed quality. He thinks ultimately the solution may be to give responsibility for certification to the states's Department of Agriculture. A strong, university-based foundation-seed program may be critical to Idaho's seed industry. Also being considered is the importance of university programs for improved seed varieties.

## SPUDDERS

Gary Leever

Potato Certification Association of Nebraska  
Alliance, Nebraska

Kent and I are glad to report that we have been busy in the seed potato fields conducting our first field inspections. At this writing, approximately 1,000 acres of certified seed have already been inspected. Considering the adverse, dry and windy, weather of the typical nasty Nebraska spring, potato fields show excellent stands, uniform growth, and little if any disease content. First inspections do not normally begin until the last week of June or first week of July. The fact that certification personnel were conducting field inspections June 14th would suggest that this year's crop is at least two weeks earlier than normal. So, keep the center pivots going around and around and we will soon have taters coming underground.

## Diquat Use and Time of Application

Alexander Pavlista

Extension Potato Specialist  
University of Nebraska, Scottsbluff

On June 12 to 15, I attended the 3rd Annual Diquat Seminar held by Valent in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In the September issue of Nebraska Potato Eyes, I will give a detailed report. Due to its importance the following highlight is for immediate release.

For effectiveness, Diquat must be applied as late in the day as possible. Even nighttime is okay. Daytime application should be on cloudy/overcast days and not on sunny/clear ones. The reason is: Diquat is photoactivated; that is, light turns it on. When applying it in the morning or early afternoon and on clear days, Diquat will penetrate the contacted surface and be activated by the light. This will cause death of only the tissue that is in contact with

Diquat. No opportunity for translocation of the product throughout the plant occurs. However, evening application and application on overcast days, allow the Diquat to enter the plant and be distributed throughout it. Then, when the morning sun comes out, Diquat is activated, and it will kill all the tissue around it. "Dark time" application will affect the whole plant while "light time" application will affect only a portion. Also, in the morning, dew will dilute the applied Diquat, effectively lowering the rate of application. Bottom Line: Spray Diquat in the sun and you are giving your money away.

## Percentage of Desiccation by Diquat, 1 pt/A.

### Measured 8 Days After Application, Norchip.

Date of Application	11:30 a.m.	9:00 p.m.
8/9	50%	70%
8/17	80%	85%

Don Nelson, North Dakota State University

## Percentage of Dessication of Stems by Diquat, 1 pt/A

### Measured 15 days After Application, Katahdin.

6:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
19%	23%	40%

Leaves are easier to kill, and therefore the percentages are higher.

Leigh Morrow, University of Maine.

## Potato Growers Meeting

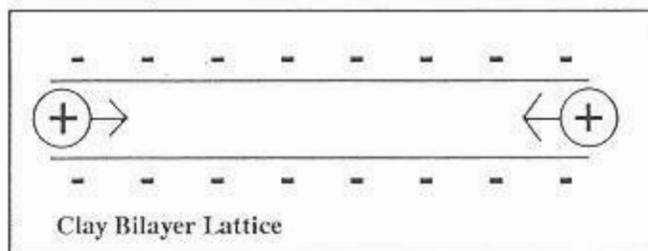
Alexander Pavlista

Extension Potato Specialist  
University of Nebraska, Scottsbluff

On March 15, 1989, a Potato Growers Meeting was held at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center, Scottsbluff. The guest speaker was Dr. Bob Ellsworth of Biohumanctics, Inc. Thirty-one people attended, mostly growers with some consultants and University staff. The

following is a summary of my notes. Added as an addendum is a brief description of the BHN program and answers to frequently asked questions about BHN products. This information was supplied by Bob.

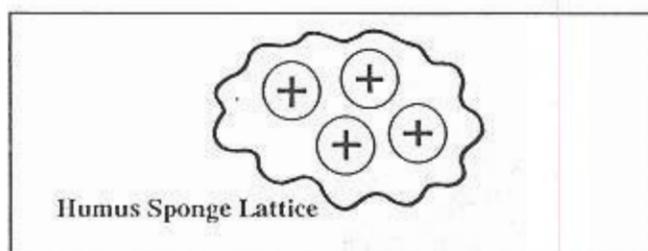
Soil is a growing medium acting as a nutrient source. It is composed of sand, silt and clay, and contains organic matter. When the particles are smallest, then the greatest holding capacity is achieved. Clay tends to be a negative-charged bilayer lattice. Therefore, positively charged elements such as K and Ca are inserted within. Plants get their nutrients from outside this clay lattice. The problem for potatoes, alas, is to get K and Ca out of the lattice and into the plant.



Leaves mature in 14 days. During the leaf's growth, nutrients are entering, but, afterwards, nutrients are leaving. The petiole is the conduit for this back and forth movement. Nitrogen, in general, promotes vegetative growth and inhibits reproductive development. By leaf tissue analysis, the best ratio of the major nutrients is 10 N : 1 P : 8 K : 8 Ca : 1 Mg : 1 S.

Nitrogen is taken up easily while K is difficult. Without sufficient K, there is little to no movement of positive elements such as N whether as urea, ammonia, or nitrate. The roles of these elements are N for growth, P for energy, K for the movement of N and Ca, Ca for protection against fungal diseases, Mg for chlorophyll used in food production, and S for proteins. A K to Ca ration of 1:1 may decrease disease incidence.

Humus is well digested organic matter. Organic matter is the major source (90-95%) of soil N, it also increases water infiltration, soil exchange capacity and soil flocculation. Humus is a sponge lattice with greater holding ability than clay and also a greater release capability for water and positively-charged elements. It is formed by the digestion of soil by microbes, and therefore, enhancement of soil microbes improves the soil condition for nutrient uptake by plants.

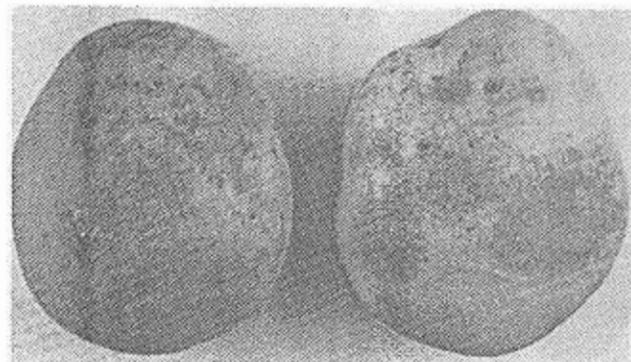


At the conclusion of this presentation, the growers requested a rundown of BHN's product line. Bob gave the following list: START - used as seed treatment to the promote microbial populations and promote emergence. BLEND and LASE - soil applied, induces microbial activity, increases oxygen and water penetration. Foliar feeding of minor and trace elements is recommended, especially for P and K. VITOL - nutrient foliar feed for vigor. MICRO-F for potatoes - anti-disease complex applied with fungicides as synergist. PEK - enzyme mix. ZuSE - as soil or seed addition for germination and seedling growth. NIP - new product in testing stage for reducing insect population when applied prior to an expected mass attack. JACK-POT - foliar added enzyme mix with urea, K, etc., for speeding up maturity late in the season, promote nutrient movement from tops to tubers. Nitrogen levels need to be low to be effective. May be used in conjunction with a vine killer.

## Black Dot

*Eric Kerr*  
*Plant Pathologist*  
*Panhandle Research & Extension Center*

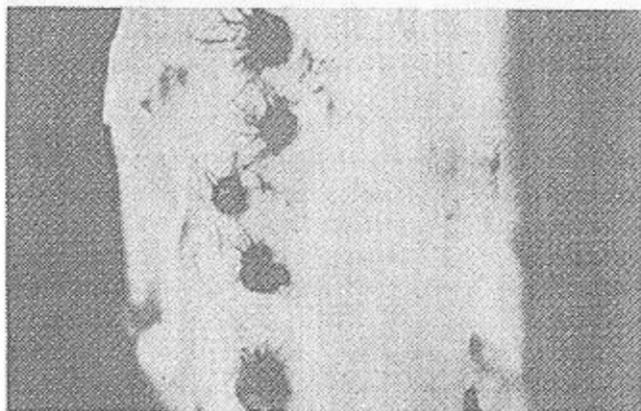
Black dot is a soil borne fungus, *Colletotrichum coccodes*. It is a weak pathogen considered a minor disease in potatoes. The incidence of the disease is not known, and since it develops during storage in combination with other pathogens causing similar symptoms, it is difficult to visually identify. The development of the fungus sclerotia on the tuber surface causes only shallow markings but the appearance may be of importance in marketing the product. Black dot may colonize the skin of new tubers causing grayish areas very similar to silver scurf. The black sclerotia can readily be seen with a hand lens. The most striking symptoms are on other parts of the plant. Yellowing and wilting foliage symptoms may be confused with those of the wilt diseases caused by *Verticillium* and *Fusarium* spp. Necrotic lesions occur on the underground stems, roots, and stolons and pinhead-sized black sclerotia can be seen on the affected areas. Severe rotting of underground stems and roots may result in early death of the plant and reduction in tuber size. Though considered a minor diseases of potato, when the only visible symptoms are root and stolon necrosis, black dot may often be overlooked.



Often associated with sandy soils with low nitrogen levels the disease may have been favored in the 1988 crop by high temperatures and heavy irrigation in some poorly drained fields. Black dot attacks aging tissue, or injured or stressed plants. Heat stress was a common problem.

Since black dot is not frequently recognized, there has been little research done on disease control. There are no resistant cultivars. Crop rotation (tomato, pepper, and eggplant also are hosts), clean seed, and good irrigation and fertility management may be helpful.

At the Idaho Potato School (1989), a "Black dot Update" report was given by Jim Davis et al. Their conclusion was that blackdot may be more of a problem than previously considered since its foliar symptoms during the season are very similar to early blight. They reported an 8% yield reduction (39 cwt/A) on Russet Burbank due to blackdot infection.



## Pest Alert

A mid-winter potato tuber sample of variety 'Monona' stored under conventional conditions developed surface grayish areas similar to silver scurf. Isolates from the affected areas were identified as the fungus *Colletotrichum*, the causative agent of "black dot".

This is the first report of black dot in Nebraska for at least 30 years. To determine the extent of this disease, please contact Eric Kerr or Alex Pavlista should you see tubers appearing to have silver scurf.

## PASSAGES

### Nebraska Potato Industry Loses Two People

*Gary Leever*

*Potato Certification Association of Nebraska Alliance, Nebraska*

Roy Ferguson died of a massive heart attack on Thursday, June 1st in Alliance. Roy was two weeks short of his 69th birthday. Roy moved to Alliance in the fall of 1962 as a salesman for the old Nebraska Certified Potato Growers Co-op. Prior to that he had been involved with the late Bus Baltes in a potato business in Scottsbluff. Nebraska Certified Potato Growers dissolved as a co-op in the early 1970's with Roy continuing the business as owner-manager until he closed the office in May of this year. In his capacity as a potato shipper-broker, Roy served for many years on the Nebraska Potato Development Board and was always active in the Nebraska Potato Council. Roy was a unique force in the marketing of Nebraska Potatoes. We are all saddened by his sudden death.

It is also with deep sadness that we, in Nebraska, must say goodbye to Richard O'Bannon. Rich has resigned as manager of West Nebraska Potato Shippers in Bridgeport to assume a position with a potato and onion firm in Greeley, Colorado. The O'Bannon family has been active in the Nebraska potato industry since it's very beginnings. Rich's grandfather, Fred O'Bannon and his father, Randall O'Bannon, were involved in the Nebraska potato industry with Nebraska Potato Shippers in the 40's, 50's, and 60's. In the late 60's and early 1970's Richard and his brother Randy became active in the family potato business. After Randall's semi-retirement in 1981, the O'Bannon boys expanded the business and moved it to Bridgeport from its original location in Gering. In April of 1987, ownership changed and Nebraska Potato Shippers became West Nebraska Potato Shippers. Rich has served on the Executive Council of the Potato Certification Association for the past 11 years. He has been active in and Treasurer of the Nebraska Potato Council. He also has served several terms on the Nebraska Potato Development Board. We wish Rich all the very best in his new position and say thank you for all he has done for our industry. **Let's keep in touch!**