

Vegetable *-Matters-of-* Fact

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POTATO

Safe Seed Potatoes

- ◆ **CONTAMINATED** seed will rapidly spread soil-borne pests and diseases
- ◆ **CERTIFIED** seed is your best insurance against serious pests and diseases.
- ◆ **CHECK** your seed has been inspected for PCN, Bacterial Wilt and Viruses.
- ◆ **AVOID** planting tubers of unknown origin or potatoes graded from ware crops.
- ◆ **ADOPT** clean farm practices to further protect your business.



CERTIFIED SEED ... your best insurance of seed quality

Certified Seed Potatoes

ViCSPA is Australia's largest certified seed scheme.

ViCSPA inspect over 2000 Ha and certify about 39,000 tonnes of seed potatoes each year.

ViCSPA certified seed is grown under strict rules and conditions approved by the Victorian and South Australian Governments.

ViCSPA **CERTIFIED SEED** potato crops meet or exceed strict National Standards:

1. Approved farm hygiene practices
2. Mandatory testing for PCN.
3. Regular crop inspections for disease.
4. Post-grading tuber quality inspection.
5. Further rules govern crop rotation and early generation seed.



Clean up or get cleaned out



Clean farm practices will reduce the risk of potato pests and diseases spreading to your farm.

UNCERTIFIED ... Can you afford the risk ??

Some growers choose to multiply their own planting material and sell their surplus to other growers.

- **UNCERTIFIED** tubers should be grown to the same quality standards as Certified Seed. →
- **AVOID** tubers with levels of defect greater than in the quality specification shown opposite
- **MAKE SURE** the tubers you purchase are inspected and tested for critical defects before planting.
- **AVOID** tubers of unknown origin or potatoes graded from ware crops and offered as 'seed'.
- **LAND HISTORY** can increase the risk of disease carryover. **CERTIFIED SEED** is grown in fields that have been rested from potatoes for at least 4 years.

CRITICAL DEFECTS

While the proportion of quality defects may be reduced by grading, the presence of **CRITICAL DEFECTS** excludes that crop from certification.

POTATO CYST NEMATODE (PCN)

- ViCSPA certified seed can only be produced on properties tested for PCN according to the National Standard, (10x10 grid, 1 sample per 2Ha).
- ViCSPA certified seed **CANNOT** be grown on land, which has previously grown bulbs, corms, or tubers introduced from areas where PCN occurs.

Unlike ViCSPA, not all seed schemes test for PCN.

BACTERIAL WILT

- Certified Seed can only be produced on properties where ViCSPA is satisfied Bacterial Wilt is absent.

VIRUSES

- Field inspection for symptoms of viral defects.
- Diagnostic tests for PLRV, PVY and TSWV are required in some districts.

The following sources have been used in the preparation of this factsheet

VICSPA (May 2006) "Seed Potato Hygiene Protocol", www.vicspa.org.au

VFF Potato Growers Council Policy (Feb 2004): "Management of Potato Cyst Nematode in Victoria"

Seed Potatoes Victoria (Oct 2004): "PCN-Options to limit its spread"

The VegCheque fact sheets series is available online at :

www.dpi.vic.gov.au/vegcheque

NATIONAL TUBER QUALITY STANDARD FOR CERTIFIED SEED POTATOES

ABRIDGED

Group 1 CRITICAL DEFECTS:

A **ZERO TOLERANCE** will apply to the following diseases, which automatically precludes the crop from being certified.

- Potato Cyst Nematode (*Golden or Pale Cyst Nematode*)
- Bacterial wilt (*Ralstonia solanacearum*)
- Potato spindle tuber viroid

Group 2 Diseases/Nematodes:

Dry rots (<i>Fusarium sp., Phoma sp.</i>)	2%
Black scurf (<i>Rhizoctonia sp.</i>)	negotiated with buyer
Silver scurf (<i>Helminthosporium sp.</i>)	negotiated with buyer
Black dot (<i>Colletotrichum sp.</i>)	negotiated with buyer
Common scab (<i>Streptomyces sp.</i>)	2%
Powdery scab (<i>Spongospora subterranea</i>)	2%
Root knot nematode (<i>Meloidogyne sp.</i>)	2%
Soft rots (eg. <i>Pythium sp.</i>)	0.25%
Pink rot (<i>Phytophthora sp.</i>)	0.25%

Overall group 2 defects must not exceed 2%

Group 3 Tuber Defect Rating:

Insect damage	1.5%
Malformed tubers	2%
Mechanical damage	2%
Stem end discolouration	2%
Miscellaneous (eg. sunburn)	1%
Foreign cultivars	0%
Oversize	1%
Undersize	2%

Overall group 3 defects must not exceed 2%

TOTAL Group 2 & Group 3 defects must not exceed 4%



For more information please contact:

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or

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DPI-Plant Standards Branch

Bairnsdale	5152 0600	Benalla	5761 1611
Bendigo	5430 4444	Ballarat	5336 6859
Footscray	8371 3500	Knoxfield	9210 9390
Mildura	5051 4500	Swan Hill	5036 4800
Tatura	5833 5222	Wodonga	6043 7900

Or contact your local Vegcheque Officer

Colac	5233 5504	Ellinbank	5624 2222
Knoxfield	9210 9222	Bairnsdale	5152 0600
Mildura	5051 4500		

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