



ALBERTA SEED POTATOES



Alberta is the largest exporter of seed potatoes in Canada and is internationally renowned for its high quality seed potatoes.

Long summer days, cool nights and a large, available land base in isolated geographic areas have resulted in Alberta seed that is characterized by increased vigour, high quality, high yields and fewer disease and pest problems.

Alberta seed producers operate under the Canadian Seeds Act and are inspected and certified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Canada's strict national program ensures only top quality seed potatoes are marketed domestically and internationally. Each growing season includes at least two field inspections on each seed lot. Visual inspections are supplemented with laboratory tests to ensure Alberta seed potatoes remain disease-free.

Between the PGA, government and industry, there is a demonstrated commitment to improving the genetics of potato varieties grown in Alberta. Our province is one of the few in Canada with privatized high generation lab and greenhouse production. All laboratories operate under the guidelines of the Canadian Seed Act and are CFIA approved and inspected. On-farm greenhouses receive potato plantlets from the tissue culture bank operated by the provincial government and the provincial seed potato repository houses more than 100 different potato varieties.

To secure new markets and grow existing ones, Alberta seed growers use the latest innovations and techniques to stay on the cutting edge of seed potato production. In addition to the rigour of our national safety program, growers employ strict sanitation, post-harvest testing and crop rotation practices.

Nearly 50 per cent of the seed potatoes grown on the 10,000 seed potato acres in Alberta are exported, with the majority of exports earmarked for the USA and Mexico. With first rate storage facilities and handling equipment, and extensive experience in shipping seed potatoes long distances, Alberta seed potatoes are known for arriving on time and in excellent condition.