



## National Potato Variety Evaluation for Sustainability, Resilience and Climate Change

### LEAD RESEARCHERS

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The national potato variety evaluation is working to boost profits and sustainability for the Canadian potato industry by finding new potato selections with improved productivity, disease resistance and climate resilience. New selections are being compared to currently grown potato varieties across the major potato production areas of Canada.

This past summer was the second field season for this cycle of the research activity. Trials were planted and field data was collected. Based on feedback gathered at field days this summer there are some

promising selections in the trials.

This growing season was more typical for most areas of the country compared to last year, with the exception being weather during the spring. In the east, it was very dry and much warmer than usual in spring allowing for earlier planting without many disruptions. The plants took more time to get going until the rain started though. In the west, it was a colder spring with more rain than usual in Manitoba. The cold and wet weather somewhat delayed planting.



Attendees at the Elora Research Station in Ontario potato field day on Aug. 21, 2024.

Photo: Ashley Robinson





The 2024 potato variety trials at the Elora Research Station in Ontario.

Photo: Ashley Robinson



Attendees look at potato variety trials at the Elora Research Station in Ontario potato field day on Aug. 21, 2024. Photo: Matt McIntosh

#### KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Variety trials are done at locations across Canada including Harrington, P.E.I.; Fredericton, N.B.; Benton, N.B.; Simonds, N.B.; Ste-Croix, Que.; Lanaudiere, Que.; Elora, Ont.; Simcoe, Ont.; Winkler, Man.; Carberry, Man.; Outlook, Sask.; Lethbridge, Alta.; Vauxhall, Alta.; and Delta, B.C.
- Four potato lines have graduated from the AAFC program in 2023-2024 cycle and are now in industry trials. These lines have resistance to certain diseases. The four varieties include F160036-02, CV15129-1, F160025-03 and F160032-06.
- This winter, varieties will be tested to confirm resistance to diseases such as golden nematode, potato wart, PVX, PVY, Fusarium dry rot and late blight, as well as for resistance to Colorado potato beetles.
- The potato lines will be tested over winter for the retention of their processing quality through storage and their storage potential over a period of 12 months.

