



## 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.

In 2024, industry trials took place in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. Growers and industry representatives attended field days at most trial locations. Up to 10 common varieties were grown in all trials to allow for a cross-country comparison. Data from the trials are being compiled and analyzed.

In 2024, 10 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) french fry selections and four standard varieties were grown in field trials in Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Nine AAFC

fresh market selections and four standard varieties along with six AAFC chip selections and three standard varieties were grown in field trials in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and P.E.I. Field days, with a demonstration plot, happened in all provinces as well at a site in B.C. for all three market types. Data from this year's trials is currently being analyzed.

For 2025, industry variety trials are planned for B.C., Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. Common varieties will be selected to allow for comparisons across the country. AAFC trials will be conducted in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and P.E.I. Selections with positive feedback from the field days and those with promising attributes from the data collected will advance in the commercialization pipeline. The most advanced selections will be offered to industry for field trials.



Harvesting potatoes at the New Brunswick trial site. Photo: Erica Fava





Attendees at the 2024 field day at the Lethbridge, Alta. trial site.

Photo: Erica Fava



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#### KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- In 2024, industry trials took place in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. Growers and industry representatives attended field days at most trial location.
- In 2024, AAFC trials happened in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Field days, with a demonstration plot, happened in all of the provinces.
- For 2025, industry variety trials are planned for British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.



Research plots being dug up for the 2024 field day at Delta, B.C.

Photo: Heather Meberg

