

New Mexico Potato Certification Requirements and Standards (initiated 06/23/2021)

I. SEED PRODUCTION

A. Applications

1. Dates and fees for applications are as listed in the NM Seed Certification Handbook as well as on the New Mexico State University Seed Certification website.

II. APPLICATION AND AMPLIFICATION OF GENERAL CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND VARIETY ELIGIBILITY:

Classes and sources of certified seed: All certified classes shall be produced from tissue culture derived certified seed passing an acceptable winter test and meeting NM requirements and standards.

III. LAND REQUIREMENTS:

Potato seed will not be eligible for certification if produced:

- A. On land which produced potato within the last two years.
- B. On land that has received manure or potato residue within the last two years.
- C. On land that is subject to drainage water from field that are now growing or have grown potato within the last two years.
- D. A field will not be eligible to obtain potato seed certification if Root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne* spp.) is present or have been found to exist in the field or in potatoes grown in that field.
- E. A field will not be eligible to produce certified seed potatoes if noncertified potatoes or potatoes that have been confirmed to be Bacterial Ring Rot infected by a laboratory test were grown in this field the previous two growing seasons.
- F. Applicants must show a system plan for cleaning equipment.

IV. PLANT BED REQUIREMENTS:

- A. The plant bed must be located on well-drained soil away from drainage from barnyards, poultry yards and on land which has not produced potatoes within the last two years.
- B. Manure must not be used in plant bed.
- C. Before offering plants and seeds for sale, the growing area and seeds must be inspected by an inspector from the Seed Certification & Noxious Weed Free Program (SCNWFP).
- D. A representative seed sample of each seed lot shall be sent to the New Mexico Department Agriculture Seed Lab or a lab of similar standard. Minimum testing standards shall include pure seed, inert matter and germination percentage.

V. FIELD STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS:

A. General Requirements:

1. Unit of certification – A field or portion of a field may be certified provided the entire field is in the same certified field class and the area to be certified is clearly defined.
2. Isolation – All fields producing Foundation, Registered or Certified-seed potatoes shall be separated from other potato fields by definite and distinct barriers of greater than 100 feet from lower generations. It shall be in such a manner as to prevent mechanical mixture. The distance between seed lots shall be a minimum of one blank row with clear demarcation such as staked labels.
3. A map shall be provided of all seed lots being certified.
4. Generation in field: G1-G7* but will be permitted to continue with G8 seed provided they pass yearly testing requirements and standards.
5. Field inspection – two or more inspections of seed potato while growing in the field shall be made to determine varietal purity, trueness to type and freedom from disease.
6. A winter test is required for all lots to be recertified, certified or sold as seed which shall include a virus, disease and stand analysis.
7. If bacterial ring rot is present, the positive field shall be free of potatoes for a minimum of 5 years or may become ineligible for certification.
8. Roguing to remove varietal mixtures, objectionable weeds and weak or diseased plants from the field should begin as soon as they become apparent and continue throughout the growing season. Delayed roguing until after the first inspection and determination is made of potential problems affecting certification is acceptable.
9. Fields will be rejected when plants or potatoes are seriously infected or damaged by insects, blight, drought, wind, frost or other diseases or causes (see below, B. Specific requirements) which interfere with the thorough inspection of potatoes. Other factors such as poor stands, low soil fertility, poor cultural conditions or excessive weeds will also exclude a field for certification.

B. Specific requirements:

Factor	Foundation	Registered	Certified
1. Plant Beds			
Blackleg (maximum)	None	None	None
Fusarium/Verticillium wilt	Reject if excessive	Reject if excessive	Reject if excessive

Nematodes (maximum)	None	None	None
Bacterial ring rot	None	None	None
All virus, viroid and phytoplasmas except PVX	1% total	1% total	1% total
PVX	None	None	None
PVY	None	None	None
Other varieties (maximum)	None	.25% total	.5% total

2. Final Inspection			
Blackleg (maximum)	None	None	None
Fusarium/Verticillium wilt	Reject if excessive	Reject if excessive	Reject if excessive
Nematodes (maximum)	None	None	None
Bacterial ring rot	None	None	None
All virus, viroid and phytoplasmas except PVX	None	.25% total	.5% total
PVX	None	None	None
PVY	None	None	None
Leaf roll	None	None	None
Black dot	Note disease	Note disease	Note disease
Spindle tuber	None	None	None
Other varieties (maximum)	None	.25% total	.5% total

- C. Storage and Sorting:
1. Potatoes grown for certification shall be stored in new or disinfected storage containers.
 2. Potatoes must be stored in an approved storage facility that has been cleaned and disinfected with approved materials.
 3. Each unit of potatoes that passed field inspection shall be stored according to production unit and treated separately and distinctly at the time of storage inspection. The grower shall separate each unit by an aisle of two feet or more and each container shall be marked or labeled to correspond with the field unit that passed inspection.
 4. Certified potatoes shall not be stored in the same room with non-certified potatoes.

5. Condition of potatoes must show that they have been properly handled in storage.
6. Seed lots showing a disease that is new to New Mexico, can be disqualified or have certification withheld pending further analysis of the disease.
7. Washed potatoes shall not be considered for certification **unless planted whole** due to the danger of spreading diseases.