

# Variety News

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2008

## Naming New Potato Varieties

Who would have thought coming up with names for new potato varieties could be so difficult. First we had **Premier Russet** and then it became **A93157-6LS** and now it is back to **Premier Russet**. What is the story? To explain one needs to back up and put a little historical (although some might stay hysterical) perspective on the matter.

Traditionally new potato varieties have been named by the potato breeder. These names have been either descriptive or whimsical and become generically associated with the potato. Since 1994, when the PVP (Plant Variety Protection) was extended to potatoes, this name became the generic identifier of the variety. Because PVP only provides 20 years of protection, these potatoes then revert to public varieties.

Trademarking had been proposed as an option to allow PVMI and its USDA and University partners to retain rights to these varieties for more than 20 years. However, after considering input from potato breeders, processors and growers, the NPVDC (Northwest Potato Variety Development Committee) has decided to continue using the current system of giving traditional, alphabetic names to new Tri-State varieties.

What does this now mean? It means that potato breeders will return to naming their varieties at the time of release. So whereas the clone referred to as **A93157-6LS** may have been 15 years from initial cross to release, it will be called **Premier Russet** after release.

A quick recap means that **Premier Russet**, **Highland Russet (A9045-7)** and **Yukon Gem (NDA5507-3Y)**,

will be called those names in all references in the future.

Two trademarks, **GROUND-BLAZER** and **GROUND-BREAKER** have been successfully applied for and secured by PVMI for the purpose of using for new releases. These will be available if an application is found where they would be useful in the future.



Powell Butte, October 2007. Looking over the 18 hill plots. The usual suspects, l to r, Bill Brewer, Dan Hane, Allan French, Mel Martin and Steve James.

### PVMI Board of Directors

- Elli Charvet, WA - Chairman
- Randy Bauscher, ID - President
- Andy Jensen, WA - Secretary
- Bill Brewer, OR - Treasurer
- Bruce Arnold, ID
- Jeff Harper, ID
- Jim Carlson, OR
- Dan Walchli, OR
- Rob Halvorson Jr., WA

### Inside this issue:

Up and Coming New Releases from the Tri-State Breeding Program

- A95109-1
- A9305-10
- AO96160-3
- AO93487-2R
- A88338-1
- Others to watch
- Retreads

## Promising Upcoming Releases From the Tri-State

The information below may be useful to seed growers, distributors, processors and retailers in considering future varieties with market potential. These varieties can be obtained for field evaluation under an MTA as plantlets or, on a limited basis, as mini-tubers/pre-nuclear seed from the Foundation Seed Programs of the Tri-State Breeding Programs at University of Idaho and Oregon State University. Please contact PVMI for more information.

### A95109-1

A possible replacement for the *Norkotah* market for early fresh-pack and a variety that looks good as an early processor. It has had very good performance in Tri-State and Western Regional Potato Variety Trials over the past several years. It is an early-maturing, russeted clone that produces a high percentage of U.S. No. 1 tubers. It is resistant to external and internal tuber defects and is resistant to common scab. **A95109-1** also has moderate resistance to *Verticillium* wilt and dry rot. Weaknesses include lower specific gravity and some shatter bruise was noted and also some PVY susceptibility. This variety has performed especially well in taste tests.

In the process of being approved for release by the University of Idaho, expect to be seeing more of this especially tasty russet in the near future. See [www.pvmi.org](http://www.pvmi.org) for WA Columbia Basin Cultural Management Recommendations and additional information.



Photo by M. Bain



Photo by M. Bain

### A9305-10

This russet selection from Aberdeen, ID has shown tremendous potential for long term storage, comparable to Russet Burbank, and it has resistance to scab and moderate resistance to dry rot. It has a high early yield with large percentage of US No.1 tubers. It is both good as an early processing variety and good for early fresh pack. Its weaknesses include a light russet skin and susceptibility to PVY. See [www.pvmi.org](http://www.pvmi.org) for additional information.

### AO96160-3

This russet selection from the Oregon Program is a mid to late maturing variety with medium yields and long, russetted tubers. It has good specific gravity, excellent fry color from storage and an attractive tuber with high counts of US No.1. It is resistant to common scab, *Fusarium* and has moderate resistance to *Verticillium* wilt. This clone's main weaknesses are a medium overall yield and susceptibility to net necrosis and vascular discoloration.



Photo by Steve James



Photo by Steve James

### AO93487-2R

This soon to be released Oregon selection has a round bright red skin and mid to early maturity for the fresh market. It has a high percent of US No.1 yields, skin color that does not fade in storage, shallow eye depth, few internal and external defects and high fresh market merits. Its weaknesses include moderate skinning during harvest. See [www.pvmi.org](http://www.pvmi.org) for additional information.

## A88338-1

An upcoming release from Idaho for the fresh and processing market this long russet, has good tuber conformation, and high yields. This line has excellent yield and grade and has shown few defects. It is resistant to *Verticillium* and scab, and moderately resistant to early dying and net necrosis. It is however, susceptible to PVY and dry rot.



## Other new Tri-State clones to keep your eye on -

**AO96141-3** A long russet with early maturity for early and late harvesting. Good yields, specific gravity and excellent fry color, a processor's dream.

**AO96164-1** Good looking with early-medium maturity, high total yield, high percentage of US No. 1s and resistance to tuber late blight. Excellent processing potato with also very good merits for the fresh market.

**AOA95154-1** An oblong russet with **Bannock Russet** as a parent. Has a high percentage of US No. 1s, high specific gravity, and is resistant to common scab. It has an attractive look and good fry color. It does have smaller sized tubers and can be susceptible to hollow heart and brown spot.

**A96104-2** A long russet with medium to late maturity for the fresh and processing market, excellent grade and few defects. A result of a **Blazer Russet** and **Summit Russet** cross

**AOA95155-7** An oblong, light russet with late maturity for both fresh and processing markets. It has a high percentage of US No. 1s and has an attractive look with good fry color. Has slightly smaller tubers and average specific gravity.



## Retreads

**Retread** is a term coined by Dr. Jeff Stark at the University of Idaho. It is meant to refer to lines of potatoes that have been dropped by the Tri-State Selection program but are still of interest to one of the growers who had evaluated it under an MTA. That is a Material Transfer Agreement where pre-released lines are grown in the field to see their acceptance and performance.

A Retread Exclusive Sub-License Agreement has been agreed for **COO86107-1R**. The cost of the PVP application and required testing and data collection will be paid by the grower in exchange for the exclusive rights for a period of time to market and produce this variety. The party then controls who will produce this variety. All growers would be responsible to PVMI for annual sub-licenses as well as royalties when the variety is sold.

Hopefully this will allow growers to take advantage of lines that would have been lost from the Tri-State system. Another variety that is currently

### COO86107-1R



being organized under a Retread exclusive sublicense is **A84180-8**. If you are aware of any similarly dropped lines that you are interested in pursuing contact 541 318 1485 or email: [jeannedebons@msn.com](mailto:jeannedebons@msn.com).



**POTATO VARIETY  
MANAGEMENT  
INSTITUTE**

60380 Chickasaw Way  
Bend, Oregon 97702

Phone: 541.318.1485  
Fax: 541.318.7561

E-mail: [jeannedebons@msn.com](mailto:jeannedebons@msn.com)

**WWW.PVMI.ORG**

**Up and Coming Events**

**June 25 HAREC Field Day,  
Hermiston OR**

Contact: Phil Hamm  
509.567.8321

**June 27 Annual 2008  
Washington Potato Field  
Day, Othello, WA,**

Contact: Mark Pavek  
509.335.6861  
[mjpavек@wsu.edu](mailto:mjpavек@wsu.edu)

**August 10 -14 Annual 2008  
PAA Meeting, Buffalo, NY,**  
[www.hort.cornell.edu/PAA2008/](http://www.hort.cornell.edu/PAA2008/)

**Jan 7 - 9 2009 North  
American Potato Summit,  
San Antonio Convention  
Center,**

Contact: Hollee Alexander  
202.682.9456  
[hollee@nationalpotatocouncil.org](mailto:hollee@nationalpotatocouncil.org)

**Jan 26 - 28 2009 Washing-  
ton State Potato Confer-  
ence, Tri-Cities Convention  
Center, Kennewick, WA**  
Contact: 509.766.7123  
[www.potatoconference.com](http://www.potatoconference.com)

**Jan 29 - 30 2009 Oregon  
Potato Conference,  
Portland, OR**  
Contact: (503) 731-3300

Management Information for many of the PVMI Varieties can be found at: <http://www.pvmi.org/varieties/varieties.htm>. It includes Washington State, Columbia Basin recommendations for **A95109-1** and **Premier Russet**, as well as a paper from Aberdeen on the management of **Alturas, Summit, GemStar Russet, Defender, Blazer, Highland Russet and Premier Russet**.

**POR01PGI6-1 and the RFP**

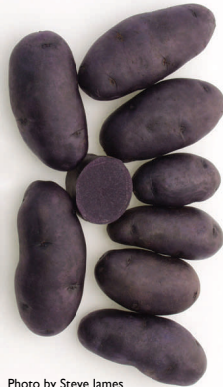


Photo by Steve James

Private industry has expressed an interest to have this clone released by OSU under an exclusive sub-license. However, because there is more data that needs to be collected prior to release and application for PVP, an RFP (Request for Proposals) has been postponed, until this data has been collected and the Tri-State program has insured the new variety meets requirements (ie virus tolerance and symptomology). The RFP will likely be announced toward the end of 2008. The RFP will consider different industry applications including fresh pack, processing, organic/small holder and industrial applications.

This variety has variable tuber shape ranging from round to fingerling shaped, with purple skin and extremely deep purple flesh with little to no internal or external defects. It has a low specific gravity of 1.067 and an overall small tuber size. It consistently tastes good baked, steamed and chipped, through several years of repeated testing. The tubers have been found ideal for baking, boiling and in salads. Chips made from this variety surpassed **All Blue** in Oregon taste test s and had no brown discoloration, common to other purple varieties. It is low yielding but much better than **Purple Peruvian** or **La Ratte**, two fingerlings that have gained a name in the restaurant trade. It has been noted that this selection tends to develop rot and/or shriveling on the stem end of the tuber after harvest.

**PVMI Granted USDA VAPG Funding for Fiscal Year 07/08**

In October 2007, PVMI was granted \$150,000 matching funds for a grant entitled **Marketing Northwest Potato Varieties** through the Rural Business Cooperative Service of the USDA. The Value Added Producer Grant is for Working Capital and follows from an earlier successfully completed funded project for Planning granted in 2005. Matching funds required for the grant have been provided by the Three Potato Commissions of Idaho, Oregon and Washington which total \$125,000 of cash plus In-Kind donations to PVMI. The balance has been met by PVMI.

The main areas of focus for the grant include 1) a targeted advertising campaign to appear this fall in the potato press, 2) increasing the supply of foundation mini-tubers of the newest varieties, 3) the international development and protection of the new varieties and 4) building awareness of PVMI and the Tri-State varieties in industry.

The advertising campaign is designed to increase awareness of PVMI and the new varieties that are being marketed to help the industry and growers know the advantages and disadvantages, so they can better decide what would be better to grow. Part of the money has already been used to attend exhibitions in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Talks have been given in Alberta and New Brunswick, Canada.

The supply of mini-tubers is critical to the timely marketing and increased interest of any particular variety. PVMI is using funds from this grant in cooperation with the Universities to increase the available supply when the varieties are newly released.

Several international companies and growers have approached PVMI with interest to bring Tri-State varieties abroad. As it turns out, this is an expensive process with costs associated with quarantine, PBR (Plant Breeders Rights) and registration in each country. Some of the funds from the grant are being used to offset these costs and protect the varieties abroad.

As soon as the varieties take hold they will provide income via licenses and royalties to return to the Universities as well as a for marketing. Until that time it was good fortune to have received the grant and to have the backing of the potato commissions.

