

CLASSIC RUSSET - HARVEST CONSIDERATIONS

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Classic Russet is susceptible to shatter bruise at harvest. Shatter, mechanical cracking, thumbnail cracks, and air checks are terms that refer to hairline fractures in the tuber that typically result when turgid tubers collide with a solid surface. Susceptibility to shatter is often variety specific and heavily influenced by a variety's genetics. Genetic potential plus the environmental conditions conducive for shatter can be devastating to a grower's pocket book. Shatter can reduce marketability and lead to excessive rot in storage.

Turgid tubers (firm, well hydrated, high fluid content) are more susceptible to shatter bruise than flaccid tubers. To prevent shatter:

- 1) Your goal should be to dehydrate (reduce turgor) the tubers to a level that will minimize shatter
- 2) Warm temperatures and dry soils facilitate dehydrating tubers
- 3) Best to harvest tubers when it is warm (pulp temp as warm as possible ~ 65F might be ideal)
- 4) Allow 14-21 days after vine kill
- 5) If possible, irrigate just prior to harvest to reduce bruising from clods, etc.
- 6) Follow steps outlined in the attached "Preventing Potato Bruise Damage" by Mike Thornton & Bill Bohl located at:
www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/pdf/BUL/BUL0725.pdf
- 7) Review also: "Thumbnail Cracks of Potato Tubers" By Bill Bohl & Mike Thornton, located at: www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/pdf/CIS/CIS1129.pdf

If the Classic Russet tubers are to be stored, growers should monitor often during the first couple months of storage to assess if there are going to be any rot issues. This might be obvious by the presence or lack of shatter and soft rot going into storage. **CLOSE OBSERVATION OF TUBER CONDITION GOING INTO STORAGE IS CRUCIAL FOR SUCCESSFUL STORAGE WITH CLASSIC RUSSET!**