



SPUD FACTS 2010

The Washington State potato growers' rank first in per-acre yield of potatoes, far above other potato-producing states and countries, and 57 percent more potatoes per acre than that other potato-producing state. Ideal combinations of sun, water and mineral-rich alluvial soil make perfect conditions for potato farming.

Also at work are the sustainable land, water and energy use practices Washington potato farmers employ to reduce chemical application, manage water use and preserve resources. Farmers were the first conservationists. Everyone has a stake in healthy food, productive farmland and a safe environment.

- In 2009, Washington growers raised 145,000 acres of potatoes with an average yield of 61,000 lbs. per acre, 8,845,000,000 lbs. total.
- If those potatoes were packed in standard 50 lb. cartons laid end-to-end, they would stretch over 55,000 miles. That's more than twice around the earth!
- Varieties of Washington potatoes grown in the Columbia Basin, Yakima Valley and Skagit Valley are known world-wide for high solids and premium quality.
- Potatoes represent the State's third largest agricultural crop with a farm gate value of over \$690 million, and total value to the State of over \$3.5 billion.
- 87 percent of the Washington potato crop is sold to processors who transform them into golden fries, crunchy chips and creamy mashed potatoes.
- At least nine out of every ten Washington potatoes are marketed outside of Washington State, with a significant portion of these going to overseas markets.
- Potatoes contribute to our trade balance and the overall health of the State's economy with over \$515 million of our value-added potatoes being exported annually through State ports.
- Japan purchases approximately 65 percent of the french fries made from Washington potatoes that are exported each year.
- Washington potato growers have been recognized with national awards for environmentally friendly and efficient use of water and fertilizers.
- Washington potatoes are nutrient dense, have more potassium than a banana, the protein of half a glass of milk and provide almost half of your daily vitamin C needs.
- Dollar for dollar, Washington potatoes deliver more nutrition than any other produce item.



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