

## England and Wales Seed Potato Classification Scheme - 2015 Season Review

**Stocks and areas entered** – very little change from last year

Year	2015	2014	Change
Area entered	3335	3443	-108 (3% less)
Stocks entered	1032	1009	+23

### 2015 Season - Inspection results

The change to the new grades and tolerances has gone well as far as field inspection is concerned.

- 40% reduction in downgraded stocks, due partly to change from nil tolerance in the highest basic S grade which also had a knock on effect for downgrading due to virus in adjacent stocks. It was also a better year for blackleg.
- Also fewer failed stocks. Just 4 stocks failed for blackleg, 2 for not true to type, 4 for chemical damage making them inspectable.

Summary details of stocks entered, certified, downgraded and failed are shown in table below, with 2014 data included for comparison. Reasons for downgrades and failures are give in the tables overleaf.

2015 stock certification summary									
Entered		No. stocks certified at:							
Grade	No. stocks	PB	S	SE	E	A	B	Downgraded	Fail
PB	178	171	7					7	0
S	427		343	64	12	3	1	80	4
SE	264			210	33	13	3	49	5
E	123				115	8		8	0
A	40					36	1	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1032</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>12</b>

2014 STOCK CERTIFICATION SUMMARY									
Entered		No. Stocks certified at:							
Grade	No. Stocks	PBTC	PB	SE	E	A	CC	Total downgraded	Fail
PBTC	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
PB	186		145	8	33	0	0	41	0
SE	489			331	122	15	17	154	4
E	209				170	21	10	31	8
A	83					67	9	9	7
CC	39						39	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1009</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>19</b>

2015 - Reasons for Downgraded and failed stocks – details are shown in the table below.

Grade		Virus	Virus in adjacent stock	Blackleg	Not True to Type	chemical damage	Isolation	Voluntary	Total per grade
<b>PB</b>	Downgraded	1		6					7
<b>S</b>	Downgraded	28	8	42			2		80
	<b>Failed</b>			<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>			<b>4</b>
<b>SE</b>	Downgraded	15	19	5			5	5	49
	<b>Failed</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>5</b>
<b>E</b>	Downgraded	3	2		1			2	8
<b>A</b>	Downgraded			1					1
	<b>Failed</b>				<b>1</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Downgraded</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>stocks</b>	<b>Failed</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>

2014 - Reasons for Downgraded and failed stocks – details are shown in the table below.

Grade		Virus	Mild mosaic	Virus in Adjacent Stock	Rogues/excessive rogueing	Black leg	Bolter	Purity	Isolation	Voluntary Down grade	Total per grade
<b>PBTC</b>	Downgraded				1						1
<b>PB</b>	Downgraded	7		23	3	7			1		41
<b>SE</b>	Downgraded	73	1	29	0	46		1	3	1	154
	<b>Failed</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>E</b>	Downgraded	9		7	2	9			2	1	30
	<b>Failed</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>A</b>	Downgraded	4		2		3					9
	<b>Failed</b>					<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>CC</b>	<b>Failed</b>										
<b>Total</b>	<b>Downgraded</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>236</b>
<b>stocks</b>	<b>Failed</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>

### **The Seed Potato Classification Scheme – Season summary.**

Number of varieties entered: 140 plus 41 approved stock varieties

Most popular varieties in terms of area certified are:

Variety	Area certified Ha.
<b>MARIS PEER</b>	<b>268.857</b>
<b>ESTIMA</b>	<b>208.749</b>
<b>LADY ROSETTA</b>	<b>206.814</b>
<b>MARKIES</b>	<b>177.642</b>
<b>MARFONA</b>	<b>134.562</b>
<b>MELODY</b>	<b>124.132</b>
<b>ACCORD</b>	<b>93.495</b>
<b>TAURUS</b>	<b>93.420</b>

The 2015 season growing conditions had a slow start but caught up.. Most planting was completed early although a short spell of wet weather did delay planting of a few stocks. The inspection season got off to a good start and inspections were at least one week earlier than last year. Lifting is virtually complete with growers capitalising on the exceptional dry harvest conditions. Yields predicted to be really good with a high seed fraction and a good skin finish. There are some concerns that the depressed ware market will have a knock on effect to seed marketing.

Early in the season aphid trap numbers were high but these then settled down to more normal catch numbers as the season progressed.

## **PCN ware survey**

For the 2013 official PCN survey of ware production 64 fields totalling 515 Ha. were sampled. 22% of area tested positive for PCN. 100.19 Ha. (11 fields) were found +ve for *G. pallida* and 15.15 Ha. (2 fields) were +ve for *G. rostochiensis*. The survey is based on randomised grower selection as we have no requirement for ware potato fields to be officially registered.

## **Blackleg Survey**

As in previous years, we conducted a survey for the presence of *Dickeya solani* in our seed stocks; sampling stocks where blackleg symptoms were seen during field inspection. Samples were sent to the Fera laboratories for identification of the causative organism. Only 1 stock tested were +ve for *D solani* and as with previous years the parent stock originated from the Netherlands. Of note was the 1<sup>st</sup> time finding of *D dianthicola*, again in a stock where the parent stock was of Dutch origin.

English & Welsh SPCS Operation Group 27 September 2014.