

POTATO VARIETY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE EASTERN SEABOARD

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Potatoes are an important crop in the east and they rank among the top three vegetable crops produced in FL, ME, NC, NY, OH, PA and VA, with farm receipts for eastern potatoes roughly at \$500 million yearly (USDA NASS, 2013). Across the eastern region, production occurs under a wide range of environmental conditions, ranging from the winter crop in southern FL, out-of-field marketed summer and fall chipping crops in NC, VA, MD, OH, NY, and PA to the fall storage crops of ME, NY and PA. This range of uses creates very diverse variety needs and production requirements. In this talk, I will describe how the potato breeding and variety develop programs are organized in the eastern US. The potato breeders, cultural management specialists and extension educators in the eastern US share resources and collaborate extensively. I will try to provide the audience insights as to how these collaborative efforts benefit the industry, and indeed are required, in today's research environment.