

2013/14 Survey of Scottish Potato Tuber Production for the Presence of *Dickeya* spp.

The 2013/14 post-harvest tuber survey was completed in April 2014 and demonstrates once again Scotland's continued freedom from *Dickeya* species.

The risk-based survey targets tuber stocks which pose the greatest risk of carrying or contracting the disease. Samples were drawn from all non-Scottish origin seed crops; the vast majority of which (51/58) were from pre-basic crops produced from Northern Irish seed. The remaining 7 samples were taken from 3 SE1 crops, also of Northern Irish origin. In addition there were 16 samples taken from 6 ware crops all of Scottish origin but grown previously in England and Wales. Irrigated stocks, for which there was a marked increase in 2013, stocks grown near watercourses contaminated/previously contaminated with *Dickeya* spp. and potential close contact stocks (crops grown on farms where there were positive findings previously) were also tested.

A total of 586 samples were tested from 568 stocks.

All were negative for the presence of *Dickeya* species.

A zero-tolerance for all *Dickeya* species was introduced into the Scottish Seed Potato Classification Scheme in 2010. Since then no positive findings have been made, as confirmed by an annual cycle of monitoring potatoes through all stages of their production. It is of paramount importance that we maintain vigilance to ensure we retain our reputation for producing healthy potatoes. This can only be achieved by the Scottish Government and industry working together to keep this, and other damaging diseases, out of our domestic production. We welcome the continued support of the Scottish potato industry in taking this forward.

Table 1. Breakdown of samples included in the 2013/14 tuber survey for *Dickeya* spp..

Region	Crop Type				Total
	Seed		Ware		
	Non-Scottish	Other Target*	Non-Scottish	Other Target*	
Northern	34	18	1	8	61
Grampian	18	132	-	6	156
Central	-	241	-	50	291
Southern	6	12	15	45	78
Sub-Total	58	403	16	109	(586)
Total	461		125		586

*Other target material includes; irrigated crops, stocks grown near watercourses contaminated/previously contaminated with *Dickeya* spp. and potential close contact stocks.