

2014/15 Survey of Scottish Potato Tuber Production for the Presence of *Dickeya* spp.

The 2014/15 post-harvest potato tuber survey has been completed once again demonstrating Scotland's continued freedom from *Dickeya* spp..

This risk-based survey targets tuber stocks which pose the greatest risk of carrying or contracting the disease. Included in this year's survey were samples from all non-Scottish origin seed crops; the vast majority of which (53 samples from 51 stocks) were drawn from pre-basic crops produced from Northern Irish seed, with the remaining 7 samples drawn from 5 basic seed also of Northern Irish origin. In addition, crops irrigated from Scottish watercourses, stocks grown near watercourses contaminated/previously contaminated with *Dickeya* spp. and potential close contact stocks (stocks grown on farms where there were positive findings from the growing crop in non-Scottish material in the summer of 2010) were also tested.

A total of 294 samples were tested from 281 stocks.

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

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's worth stressing again, that only by remaining vigilant and the continued partnership between the Scottish Government and industry can we maintain our reputation for producing healthy potatoes and ensure that this damaging bacterial disease is kept out of our domestic production.

Breakdown of samples included in the 2014/15 tuber survey for *Dickeya* spp..

Region	Crop Type				Total
	Seed		Ware		
	Non-Scottish	Other Target*	Non-Scottish	Other Target*	
Northern	35	4	-	5	44
Grampian	16	45	-	2	63
Central	2	89	-	46	137
Southern	7	3	10	30	50
Sub-Total	60	141	10	83	(294)
Total	201		93		294