

## Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 3



### Update to Industry

#### Semi-Annual – Fall 2021

**Activity title:** Activity 16: Variety Evaluation

**Name of Lead Researcher:** André Gagnon

**Names of Collaborators and Institutions:**

Sophie Massie – Progest 2001 inc.

Kristine Naess – Consortium de recherche sur la pomme de terre du Québec (CRPTQ)

**Activity Objectives (as per approved workplan):**

This project aimed to develop experimental plots where 42 lines were evaluated and compared to 14 control varieties currently grown for different markets. These tests were conducted in two sites (Ste-Croix and Lanoraie) representing different soil and climatic conditions in Quebec. This experiment will allow to determine the best varieties grown under Quebec climatic and soil condition.

**Objectives**

- Gather information on the agronomic performance of new potato genotypes
- Collect information on external and internal tuber quality of new potato genotypes
- Collect information on cooking quality of new potato genotypes

**Research Progress to Date (use plain language, not to exceed 500 words):**

In this fourth year of a 5-year experiment, 56 potato clones and varieties were tested during the 2021 season. With the hot weather during the first weeks after the plantation and the lack of precipitation in August, it gave us the opportunity to observe varieties with heat and drought tolerance. The project is still ongoing and new varieties will be added to the 2022-2023 trial and some will be eliminated.

**Extension Activities (presentations to growers, articles, poster presentations, etc.):**

Due to the pandemic, no field day took place during the 2021 season to present the varieties under this trial. However, in order to reach a maximum of potato producers it is plan to present, via a Power Point presentation, the different genotypes during the 2021-2022 winter.

**COVID-19 Related Challenges:**

In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to achieve the varieties and clones trial completely. In order to respect the government guidelines, several actions were taken: social distancing has been achieved during the plantation, maintenance of the plots and harvesting; masks was worn when needed; no more than 2 persons per car to get to the sites, etc.

**Key Message(s):**

Project is still underway in order to provide potato producers and various players in the industry results of performance and quality of potato varieties of different market (fresh and processing market) and to show the potential of several clones adapted to Quebec conditions.

This project is generously funded through the Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 3, in cooperation with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriScience Program, a Canadian Agricultural Partnership initiative, the Canadian Horticultural Council, and industry contributors.



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