The Pemberton Valley is the perfect location to grow virus-free seed potatoes due to the isolation created by the surrounding mountains. This seclusion, in addition to careful monitoring and controlling of insect pests and diseases, leads to the continuing success of the seed potato industry in British Columbia.

To contact the **Pemberton Seed Potato Growers Association**, please call the **BC Seed Potato Growers Association** at

604-946-8338

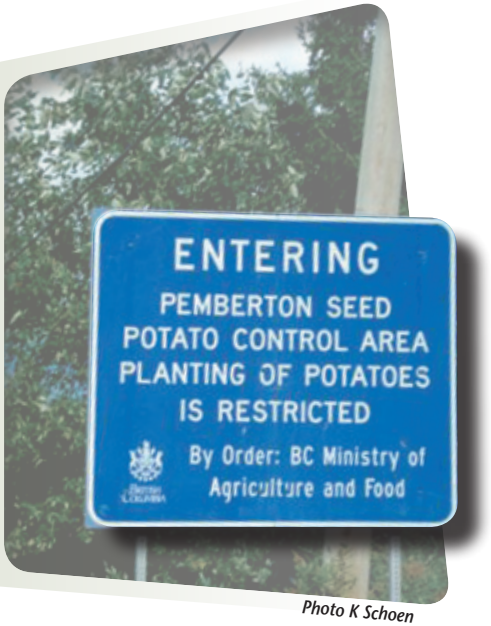


Photo K Schoen

Pemberton Certified Seed Potato Control Area

The Pemberton Valley is a designated certified seed potato control area, established in 1947.

- All residents in the seed potato control area are required to plant certified seed potatoes only from Pemberton seed potato growers.
- All potato crops are to be regularly inspected and diseased plants removed, and injurious insects and weeds controlled. If the potatoes do not meet the standards of the seed potato control area, the owner of the potatoes will be asked by the Pemberton Seed Potato Growers committee to dispose of them.

BC SEED POTATO REGULATIONS —

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/12_219_84#section1

RESOURCES —

www.pembertonfarmers.com/about_us.php

www.al.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/lateblight.htm

www.al.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/lateblighthg.htm

www.pembertonchamber.com/

BC Certified Seed Potato Growers Association
604-946-8338

BC Ministry of Agriculture
1-888-221-7141

Growing Forward
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative
Canada
British Columbia
www.gov.bc.ca

Protecting Pemberton Seed Potatoes

Photo C Pereda

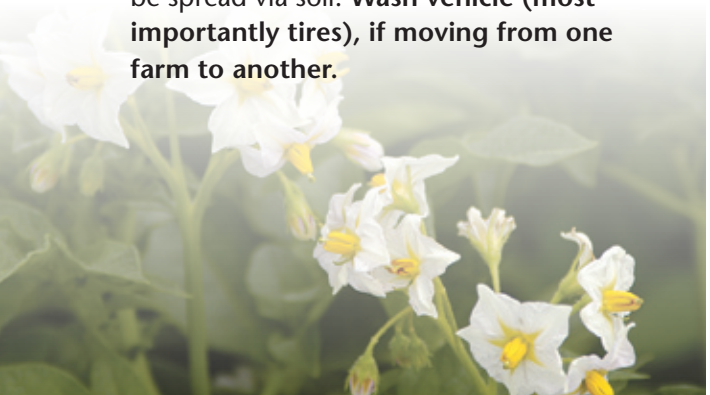
A Valuable Resource

Photo BC Fresh

Our seed potato industry depends on good neighbours like you —

If you are growing potatoes or tomatoes in the Pemberton region, you have a responsibility to:

- Ensure that you are purchasing and planting only locally sourced, disease-free seed potatoes or tomato seedlings. **Do not plant table stock potatoes.**
- Monitor your garden for insect pests and diseases.
- Control aphid populations to minimize the spread of viruses by applying commercially available insecticides, a soap solution or releasing predators or parasites of aphids (such as: lady bugs).
- Apply fungicides regularly to minimize the infection and spread of late blight.
- If virus or disease is suspected, remove and destroy plants immediately by burning or placing in a sealed plastic bag and taking to a land fill. **Do not compost diseased plants.**
- Water early in the daytime to give the plant canopy time to dry out. Stop watering if Late Blight is found. Top-kill the plants early if the infection is severe.
- Minimize soil movement. Be aware, when bringing plants into your garden, that many economically harmful pests can be spread via soil. **Wash vehicle (most importantly tires), if moving from one farm to another.**



Viruses —

Mosaic — Photo ES Cropconsult

PLRV — Photo ES Cropconsult

Virus spread is of utmost concern for seed potato growers. Most viruses are spread by aphids but also by machinery. They cause a reduction in yield and quality and can also jeopardize seed potato certification.

Mosaic Virus: General symptoms include leaf mottling with dark and light green patches, vein necrosis, leaf crinkling, bronzing, and distortion.

Potato Leafroll Virus: Plants are stunted and rigid, with older leaves turning pink or yellow and necrotic. Lower leaves appear rolled, leathery, stiff, and dry. Upper leaves may appear less affected. Symptoms from seed-piece infection appear when plants are small, around 15 cm high.

To minimize the spread of viruses, use certified seed potatoes and control aphid populations.

If you suspect viruses in your potatoes or tomatoes, please contact a potato or tomato specialist.

Insects to be on the lookout for —

Aphid — Photo ES Cropconsult

CPB — Photo BCAGRI

Aphids: Aphids are small almond-shaped insects. Aphids can be winged or non-winged. Aphids cause some damage to plants directly by feeding on the sap; but, they are a greater cause of concern for their role as the most efficient vector of Potato Leafroll Virus and Mosaic viruses to potato plants.

Control aphids using registered insecticides, or by releasing beneficial insects.

Colorado Potato Beetle: The Colorado Potato Beetle (CPB) has a voracious appetite. Adult CPB, and especially larvae, chew ragged holes in potato foliage and stems. High populations can defoliate plants, reducing nutrients going to the tubers. Yield can be significantly reduced if the majority of feeding takes place during flowering. CPB adults have rounded bodies and are about 10mm long, 7mm wide. Forewings are brown-orange or pale yellow, with ten black lines running the length of the body. Apply commercially available insecticides to control populations. Alternatively, if only in a small area, they are easy to pick off plants by hand. To kill captured adults or larvae, they should be frozen.

Diseases —

Late blight – Photo ES Cropconsult

Late Blight: Late Blight is a devastating disease, caused by a fungal-like organism, which affects Solanaceous crops including potatoes and tomatoes. The disease is easily spread by wind and rain especially when it is warm and wet for extended periods. Late Blight can reduce yields both in the field and in storage. Late Blight can be persistent in the soil. If any area has had Late Blight, do not plant potatoes or tomatoes in that soil for 3-5 years.

If you suspect Late Blight in your potatoes or tomatoes, please contact a potato or tomato specialist.