

## HARLEY BLACKWELL - A RECENT POTATO RELEASE FROM USDA

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Harley Blackwell is a round-white multipurpose potato cultivar released in 2003 by Dr. Kathy Haynes of the USDA-Beltsville, MD potato breeding program. It was named after the retired Superintendent of the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research Station in Fletcher, North Carolina and evaluated under the pedigree number B0564-8.



Figure 1. Harley Blackwell (B0564-8) tubers.



Figure 2. Comparison of tuber conformation of Superior and Harley Blackwell (B0564-8) Plants of Harley Blackwell are moderately large and resistant to air pollution injury. Tuber maturity is relatively early; tubers attractive and moderately large. Marketable yield is similar to that of Superior (table stock standard) but lower than Atlantic (early ship stock standard). Harley Blackwell is resistant to the physiological disorders, internal heat necrosis (IHN) and hollow heart (HH). Atlantic is susceptible to IHN and both Atlantic and Superior are susceptible to HH. Scab susceptibility of Harley Blackwell appeared to be similar to that of Atlantic in Virginia yield trials.

Table 1. Yield, percentage of tubers greater than 2.5" in diameter, specific gravity, and chip color averaged over 2001-2003 growing seasons in trials at the Eastern Shore AREC, Painter, VA.

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Marketable Yield (cwt/A)</b>	<b>% &gt; 2.5" diameter<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Specific Gravity</b>	<b>Chip Color<sup>2</sup></b>
Harley Blackwell	275	70	81	2.7
Superior	317	62	91	2.5
Atlantic	285	55	72	3.5

<sup>1</sup> US No. grade requires greater than 40 % of tubers to exceed 2.5 inches in diameter.

<sup>2</sup> Chip color determined by commercial processor from tubers held at ambient air temperature for 48 to 72 hours. 1-5 scale: 1=exceptional, 3=marginal, 4=unacceptable.

Harley Blackwell will fill a marketing niche for fresh market for a relatively early maturing cultivar, particularly for growers who have experienced problems with HH in early plantings. However, but vine and tuber maturity is slightly later than Superior.

Harley Blackwell was grown on limited acreage in North Carolina as chip stock in 2004. However, specific gravity of Harley Blackwell is lower than Atlantic and Snowden, the current chip standards. Growers need to consult their buyers before growing Harley Blackwell for the chip market as some processors are less receptive to cultivars with lower dry matter.

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