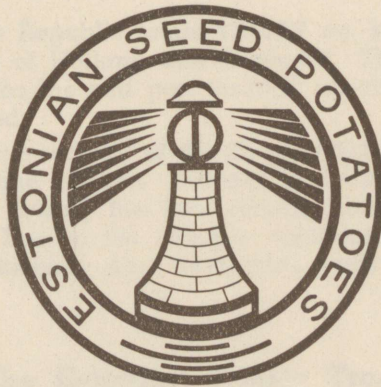


ESTONIAN SEED POTATOES



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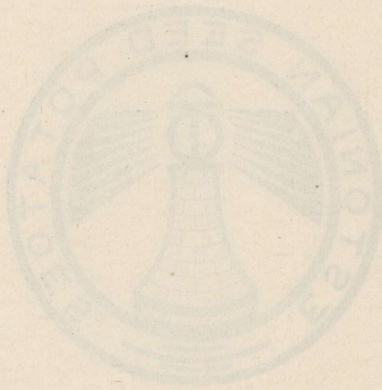


TRADE-MARK

THE UNION OF ESTONIAN POTATO GROWERS
TALLINN

1938

ESTONIAN SEED POTATOES



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THE UNION OF ESTONIAN POTATO GROWERS
R. TOHVER & Co TRÜKK. TALLINN, 1938

Estonian Seed Potatoes.

General Information about Estonia.

The Republic of Estonia is situated on the East coast of the Baltic Sea. Two of its frontiers are bordered by the Baltic Sea, namely by the Gulf of Riga on the West and the Gulf of Finland on the North.

The favourable position of the country as well as the accessibility of its ports renders a possibility of active intercourse with other countries.

The area of the Republic totals 47,558.7 sq. km. (18,370 sq miles), thus exceeding that of Holland and Denmark. The capital of Estonia is Tallinn, this is also the chief port through which most Estonian seed potatoes are exported.

On account of the vicinity of the sea Estonia may be said to have rather a cool maritime climate. The average temperature of the year is $+ 5.1^{\circ}\text{C}$., while during the four summer months the temperature averages $+ 10^{\circ}\text{C}$. Due to the climatic conditions hardly any of the dangerous potato diseases and destructive pests are to be found in Estonia.

The Estonian Potato Trade.

Cultivation of Potatoes in Estonia.

Already for a long time past Estonia has been known as a potato-growing and exporting country, the cultivation of potatoes having been a popular occupation of the local farmers. The area under this crop is considerable: of the total arable land of the country, 7.2% is under potatoes, and in the principal seed potato cultivating region — the "Viru" district — the percentage amounts to 12—13, in certain places rising even up to 20%.

The export of ware potatoes from Estonia began already some 70 years ago.

At present three kinds of potatoes are exported from Estonia: seed potatoes, ware potatoes and potatoes for industrial purposes.

Cultivation of Seed Potatoes.

Considering the time Estonia has been growing potatoes in general the cultivating of seed potatoes and trading in that line has been practised but a few years. It was as recently as 1930 that the first samples of seed potatoes were sent abroad. During the following years, however, excellent results were achieved as regards seed potato export. *With every year the export has increased approximately by 100% and the demand for Estonian seed potatoes has always exceeded the quantities the country has had for sale.*

The main purchasers of Estonian seed potatoes are: Italy, Portugal, France, Belgium, Morocco, Egypt, Palestine, the South American States, Argentine and smaller quantities up to now have been dispatched to Chile and Brazil. At the same time the countries in Northern Europe — Latvia, Lithuania and Finland — have imported Estonian seed potatoes.

All the foreign buyers have been entirely satisfied with the quality and character of Estonian seed potatoes.

Dangerous potato diseases and destructive pests are not to be traced in Estonia.

Wart disease (Synchytrium endobioticum) — the disease which very badly affects potato growing in many countries has not made its appearance in Estonia. Nor is there any fear of this disease being introduced here in the future as the import of potatoes into Estonia is strictly prohibited.

It can also be confirmed that no other potato diseases are to be found in Estonia, such as: *Spondylocladium atrovirens* and *Verticillium albo-atrum*. The most serious degenerational diseases which act destructively on the potato-crop — Leaf Roll and the severe Mosaic disease — do not appear in Estonia.

The northern climate of Estonia does not encourage the spreading of degenerational diseases. This last statement is proved by the fact that in Estonia some old potato varieties have been successfully cultivated by local farmers for decades without any sorting.

As a matter of fact, potato crops in southern countries are poorer, thus making potato cultivating there irrational. This is, no doubt, caused by *using their own degenerated seed potatoes.*

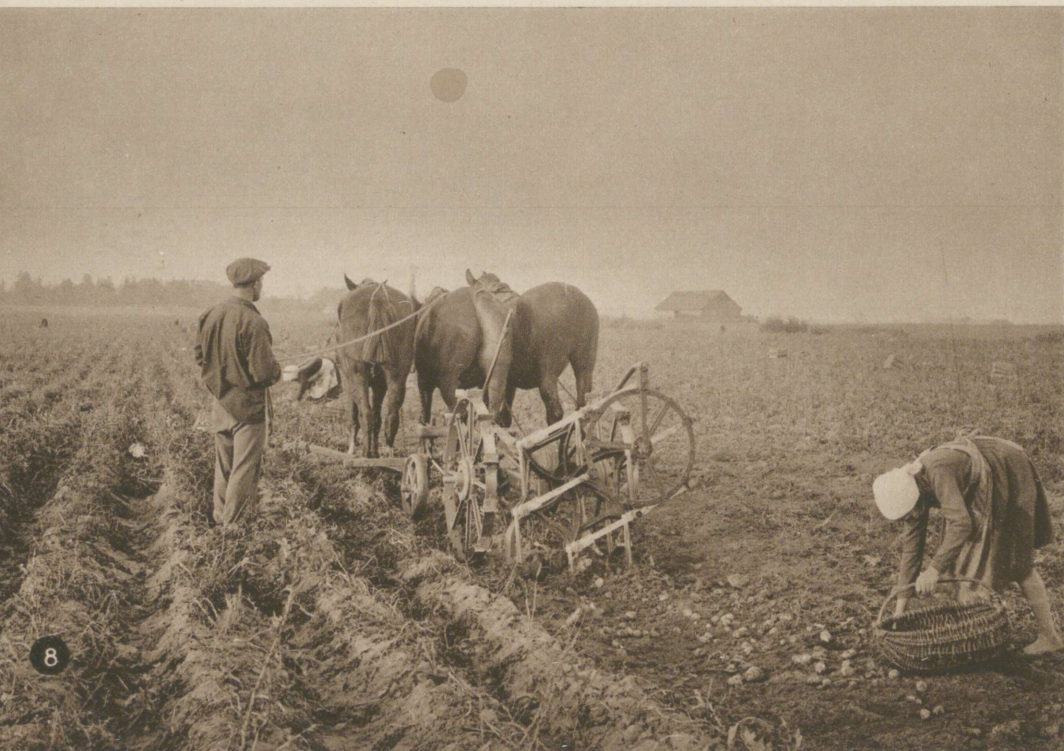
By importing from Estonia seed potatoes that are healthy and free from any degenerational diseases it is possible to increase the yield, at the same time improving its quality. *For Estonia is one of the few places in the world where potatoes do not show any sign of degeneration and on account of this fact better yields can be obtained also in southern countries when seed potatoes of Estonian origin are used.*

In 1937 Farmer Guiseppa Federici of Gremona province in the Gussola district of Italy produced a crop yielding *480 quintals per hectare*, from Estonian "Majestic" seed potatoes, whereas the average crop in Italy is *62,7 quintals per hectare.*











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Of the destructive pests none of the following appear in Estonia:

Colorado Beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*), which destroys potato crops in many countries, is not to be found in Estonia. There is a distance of about 2000 kilometres separating this pernicious insect from Estonia, that is why there is no fear of its appearing in the potato fields when seed potatoes from Estonia are imported.

Potato Tuber Moth (*Phtorimaea operculella*), the Nematode (*Heterodera Schachtii* and *H. Rostochiensis*) and *Epitrix cucumeris* do not appear in Estonia.

Approval and control of Seed Potato Fields.

According to the laws and regulations of the Agricultural Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Union of Estonian Potato Growers is authorised to approve or disapprove the seed potato fields. Inspection of the seed potato fields is carried out at least two to three times during the summer.

The control over the export of seed potatoes is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, through experienced controllers and potato specialists of that Ministry and of the Union of Estonian Potato Growers.

Assorting of Seed Potatoes.

Preliminary assorting of the seed potatoes has been done by the growers in their farms. Final assorting and packing for export, however, is accomplished in the warehouses of the exporters in Tallinn, in accordance with the rules and regulations existing in Estonia and in the respective country to which the seed potatoes are exported.

Assorting of seed potatoes is done by hand, this being a guarantee that only potatoes of the highest quality are delivered to the purchasers. Moreover, the assorting is constantly supervised by controllers.

Sacks, cases and other packages in which seed potatoes are exported are furnished with the Estonian trade mark, depicting a "Lighthouse".

When supplied with seed potatoes of this trade mark you can rest assured that you will have potatoes growing on your fields which are entirely free from diseases and that at harvest time you can expect a fine crop.

Seed Potato varieties cultivated in Estonia.

"Majestic" — a very palatable cooking potato. Gives good crop even in less fertile soil. Keeps well. The tubers are oval with a white flesh and white skin, the germinal spots are low, this advantage being of special importance when potatoes are peeled. In southern Europe as well as in America the "Majestic" variety has given best results when cultivated from Estonian seed potatoes.

Böhms "Allerfrüheste Gelbe" — cooking potato with fine flavour, gives a rich crop and remains fit for use for a long time. The tubers are round with a yellow skin and yellow flesh, with low germinal spots.

"Erstling" (Duke of York, Erstling) — a very early variety, generally recognised as a delicious cooking potato. Tubers are especially beautifully shaped, oblong with a yellow skin and yellow flesh, the germinal spots being very low.

"Bintje" (Geldersche muis, Dikke muis) — a tasty cooking potato with yellow flesh. Of a later variety than "Erstling" and rendering a larger crop than the latter. Otherwise similar to "Erstling".

"Royal Kidney" — early variety of cooking potato. The tubers are of medium size, oblong with a white skin and white flesh. The germinal spots are very low; keeps well, yields a crop above medium.

"Industrie" — cooking potato with a yellow skin and yellow flesh. The tubers are round, germinal spots of medium depth.

In addition to the varieties mentioned above the following foreign potato varieties are cultivated in Estonia: "Ideaal", "Juli", "Early Rose", "Odenwälder Blaue", "Up to date", "Imperator", "Prof. Dr. Maercker", "Parnassia", "Hero", "Wohltmann" etc.

All the varieties cultivated in Estonia are multiples of original products selected in the country.

Original Potato Varieties of Estonia.

In Estonia the improvement of potato varieties is well developed; the original potato varieties of Estonia have been fully appreciated also by foreign buyers.

"Uku" — cooking potato, oblong, with a smooth yellow skin and yellow flesh belonging to the "Erdgold" variety. Rich crops have been obtained from this variety in Estonia as well as in other countries.

"Kratt" — a yellow-skinned cooking potato with yellow flesh; belonging to the "Industrie" variety, but noticeably better in shape than the latter. The tubers are round with low germinal spots. This variety has the special advantage of being practically immune to the scab disease (*Actinomyces scabies*).

"Kalev" and **"Kungla"** — original varieties, round, with white flesh. The former is used for human consumption, the latter only for cattle food. Much attention has been paid in foreign countries to the original varieties mentioned above on account of their rich yield.

In addition to the above mentioned many other original ware potato varieties of high quality will be introduced on the market in the near future.

Estonian seed potatoes have been highly appreciated by all importing countries. Given below are some extracts of observations on Estonian seed potatoes:

Prof. L. Petri, the director of the Royal Station for Experiments of Plant-pathology of Italy, in Rome, states that he is fully satisfied with the Estonian seed potatoes, emphasizing their excellent state of health.

Dr. R. Gigante, of the Royal Station for Experiments of Plant-pathology of Italy, during his visit to Estonia, expressed the opinion that in Estonia the selection of potatoes and the control over potato-fields is very well organized, and that neither dangerous potato diseases nor destructive pests are to be found in Estonia.

In 1935 Dr. Franchini, director of the Consorzio Agrario Cooperativo di Roma in his statement to the representative of the Union of Estonian Potato Growers confirmed that already for many years he has been perfectly satisfied with the "Majestic" and "Allerfrüheste Gelbe" seed potatoes imported from Estonia.

Dr. Mathilde Bensande, director of the Phytopathology Office in Portugal says in her letter of the 31st January 1936, that the healthy condition of the seed potato "Majestic" cultivated in Estonia leaves nothing to be desired.

Senor Mazzello, importer and farmer from Argentine, advises that the Estonian seed potato "Majestic" gives a rich crop in his country.

Possibilities of Purchasing Ware Potatoes from Estonia.

Estonian ware potatoes have a fine and delicious flavour and have an excellent quality of preservation. Potatoes of high quality can be exported from Estonia even until the beginning of summer, i. e. in May and June. Up to now Estonian ware potatoes have been exported to the following markets: U.S.S.R., Finland, Sweden, England, Italy, U.S.A. and Argentine, as well as to many other countries in smaller quantities.

Estonia Exports also Potato-Alcohol and Potato Starch.

Potato-alcohol of a particularly high quality and potato starch, can be purchased in Estonia. The bulk of the Estonian export of potato-alcohol is directed to the Finland, Sweden and Germany.

Estonian potato starch has been produced in accordance with the requirements set up in western Europe. This product is being exported to Italy, Germany, Finland, etc.

Some Necessary Addresses.

The Union of Estonian Potato Growers (Eesti Kartulikasvatajate Ühing), Pikk 40, Tallinn, Estonia, — the organisers of the cultivation of seed potatoes. The above Union is authorised by the Ministry of Agriculture to approve and control the seed potato fields. This Union also gives information regarding the cultivation of potatoes and trading in same.

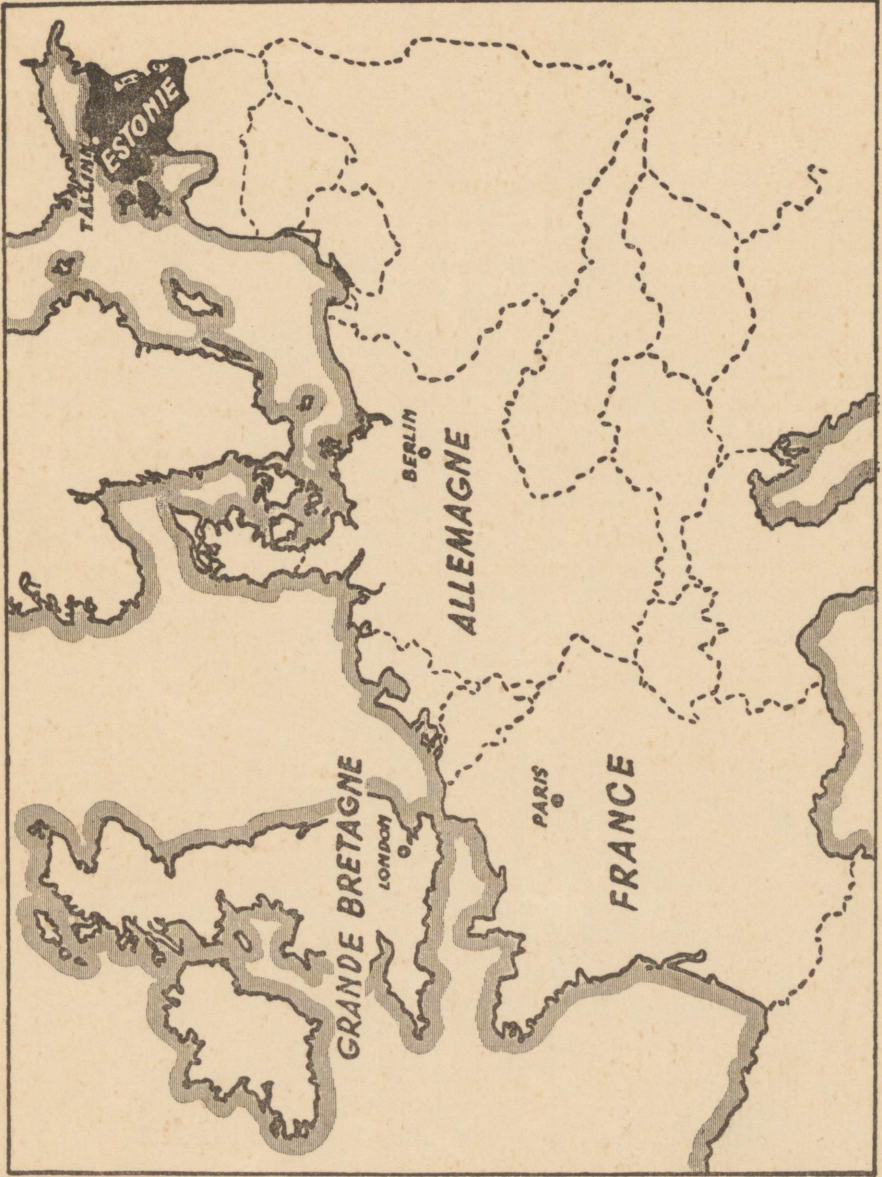
Plant Breeding Station at Jõgeva (Jõgeva sordikasvandus) — Jõgeva, Estonia. Selects and cultivates seed potatoes.

Research Stations of Phytopathology and Entomology at the University of Tartu, Estonia.

Experiment with plant diseases and pests and plant protection.

Description of the pictures.

1. Tallinn — General view from the sea.
2. Ancient walls and towers in Tallinn.
3. Scenery in Estonia.
4. An Estonian farmer on a journey in winter.
5. A field with seed-potato "Uku".
6. Controllers in the seed-potato field.
7. Comparison test in the growth of different varieties of seed-potatoes.
- 8, 9. Gathering on seed-potatoes.
10. Heaping of potatoes for preservation over winter.
11. Potatoes heaped up.
- 12, 13. Sorting of seed-potatoes.
14. Packing of seed-potatoes into chests.
15. Controlling of seed-potatoes packed for export.
16. Transport of seed-potatoes to a harbour.
17. Loading of seed-potatoes on board a ship.
18. Seed-potato "Majestic" in blossoms.
19. Estonian seed-potato "Majestic" in Italy, in the province of Alessandria.
20. Estonian seed-potato "Majestic" in Argentine.



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