2013 Seed Potato Crop

The past year was a challenging year for potato production in all areas. Planting was delayed in most production areas and in the Pacific Northwest summer temperatures were warmer than normal. Not only were planted acres reduced, it is expected that production will be reduced when compared to the last two years.

Across the nation there was an 8.7% reduction in seed acres planted from last year (Table 1). Seed potato production in North Dakota was reduced 2%, or by 282 acres and Minnesota acres planted for seed was reduced by 13% or 697 acres when compared to last year. Although there will be less seed available for 2014, the 2013 crop in North Dakota and Minnesota seems to have good quality.

The 2013 summer was considered a high aphid number year (www.aphidalert.blogspot.com) (Figure 1). The data on the Aphid Alert webpage indicate that high numbers of aphids late in the season are likely vectoring virus movement that is not observed during the growing season. With the data on aphids that Ian MacRae is collecting and the winter test results we will have a better idea of virus movement.

Seed directories for each state and Canadian Province can be found at http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/potatoextension/certified-seed.

Table 1. Acres planted for potato seed in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

State	2011	2012	2013	Change from 2012 to 2013
	——— Acres planted ———			%
Alaska	52	149	76	-96
California	704	843	771	-9.3
Colorado	13,286	13,834	9737	-42
Idaho	34,766	35,899	32,890	-9.1
Maine	11,161	11,445	10,754	-6.4
Michigan	2343	2350	2253	0.9
Minnesota	7394	6082	5385	-13
Montana	10,188	10,427	10,129	-2.9
Nebraska	5229	5326	5826	8.6
North Dakota	14,890	14,452	14,170	-2.0
New York	845	751	617	-22.0
Oregon	2587	2708	2544	-6.4
Washington	3179	2919	3028	3.6
Wisconsin	8353	8635	8404	-2.7
Total Acreage	**114,976**	**115,913**	**106,613**	**-8.7**

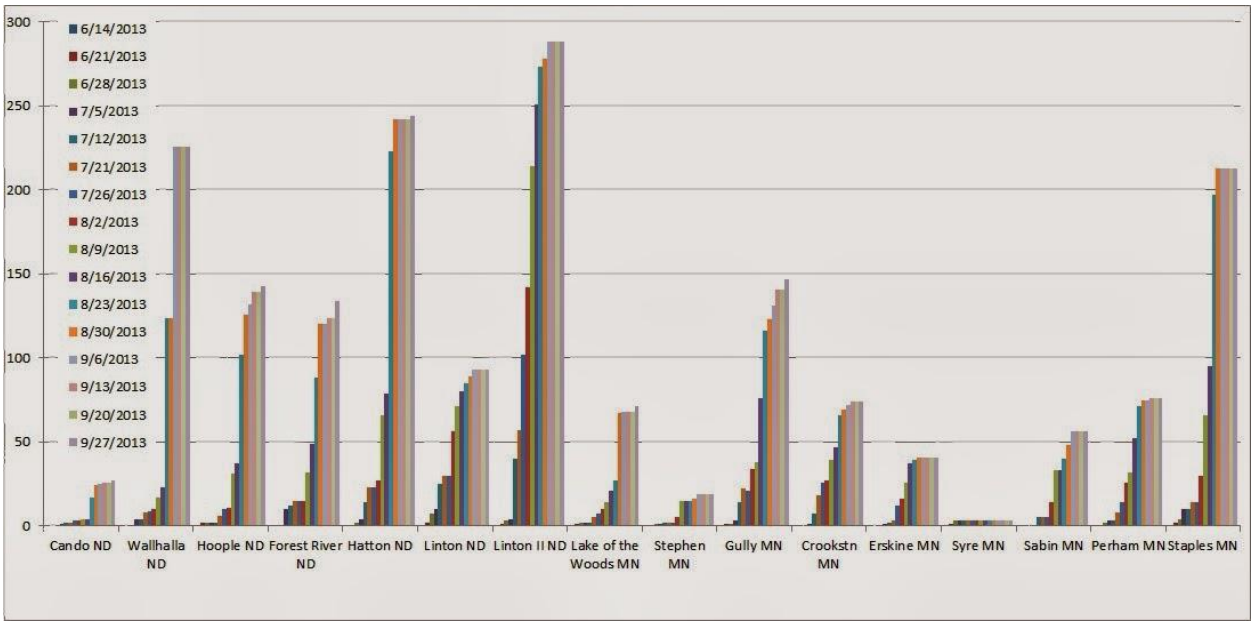

Figure 1. Cumulative seasonal catch of aphids in North Dakota and Minnesota in 2013 (www.aphidalert.blogspot.com; Ian MacRae).