

University of Florida Potato Variety Trial Spotlight: 'Goldrush'¹

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There are several potato varieties available in the market today. Most of them have been bred or developed in production regions other than Florida. The University of Florida Potato Variety Evaluation Program screens new germplasm from public and private breeding programs and identifies the most promising cultivars for commercial potential considering broad adaptability to Florida climate and conditions and market purpose: processing, fresh-market and specialty-type varieties. Over the years, the UF/IFAS Potato Variety Program has become an important reference to vegetable growers, seed producers, processors, crop insurance agencies, and brokers looking for alternative potato varieties to explore different markets, improved characteristics, and yield. This UF/IFAS Potato Variety Trials Spotlight presents a summary of the field evaluation of tuber yield and quality performance of the potato variety 'Goldrush' cultivated in Florida.

General Comments

'Goldrush' is a russet potato variety commonly grown for the fresh potato market, particularly for baking and boiling. It was selected from the progeny of a cross between ND450-3Russ and Lemhi Russet at North Dakota State University (Johansen et al. 1993). It was released in 1992 from the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. 'Goldrush' demonstrates high yield and good tuber characteristics compared to its commercial standard 'Atlantic'. Tuber

production and quality results provided in this spotlight are summarized from various trials conducted by the UF/IFAS Hastings Agricultural and Extension Center from 2005 to 2019, except 2012.

General Characteristics

'Goldrush' tubers have a brown skin with oblong to long shape and white flesh color (Figure 1). According to Florida rating codes for potato tuber characteristics (Table 1), the tubers have a good appearance with a moderate russet skin and intermediate to shallow eye depth. 'Goldrush' has demonstrated high yield potential under Florida production conditions (Tables 2 and 3). On average, marketable yield is 218 cwt/acre, approximately 6% below the commercial standard 'Red LaSoda', with 75% of the tubers produced found between classes A1 and A3 size distribution classes. It has a low to medium specific gravity of 1.061 (Table 2).

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Figure 1. Typical tuber and internal flesh color of 'Goldrush' variety. Credits: Lincoln Zotarelli, UF/IFAS

Diseases

'Goldrush' demonstrates a slight susceptibility to corky ringspot and internal heat necrosis under Florida conditions (Table 3). It is resistant to common scab (*Streptomyces scabies*) and moderately resistant to Verticillium wilt (*Verticillium albo-atrum* and *Verticillium dahliae*), silver scurf (*Helminthosporium solani*), and blackspot bruising. 'Goldrush' is susceptible to most common potato viruses and other diseases such as mosaic, early blight (*Alternaria solani*), late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*), soft rot (*Pectobacterium* spp.), and fusarium dry rot (*Fusarium* spp.). The standard UF/IFAS Extension recommended disease and weed control program described under *Potato Production* (Chapter 14 of the *Vegetable Production Handbook for Florida*, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/cv131>) should be followed.

Season Length and Growth

'Goldrush' is a medium-maturing cultivar under Florida growing conditions. Season length was 94 days on average from planting to harvest. This depended on weather conditions during the growing season. The plants should be harvested two to three weeks after vine kill to improve tuber maturation and skin set. Potatoes with proper skin set maintain better skin color, lose less weight in storage, and are more resistant to bruising and soft rot. For more information about vine killing on potatoes, see *Potato Vine Killing or Desiccation* (Zotarelli et al. 2016). Late in the season, tuber size should be checked regularly to harvest tubers with desirable, marketable size. Soil moisture should be managed late in the season to avoid high soil moisture conditions that cause enlarged lenticels and delayed skin set.

Fertilization

UF/IFAS trial plots are normally fertilized with 200 to 230 lb/A of N. The first application of 100 lb/A of N (granular) is typically incorporated in the bed prior to planting, followed by one or two side-dress fertilizer applications

at emergence and/or at tuber initiation. Phosphorus and potassium applications follow the UF/IFAS guidelines described in Liu et al. (2019) and normally range between 45 to 100 lb/A of P_2O_5 and 170 to 235 lb/A of K_2O .

Planting

A seed piece of 2.5 to 3 oz is recommended for planting. This variety should be planted with 40 inches between rows and 8 inches between plants, at 3 to 4 inches deep. A seed rate of 2,000 to 3,000 lb/acre of seed is expected.

Other Information

For additional information on cultivation and weed and disease management see the *Potato Production* chapter of the *Vegetable Production Handbook*, available at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/cv131>.

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Table 1. Florida’s rating codes for potato vine maturity and tuber characteristics at harvest.

Tuber Characteristics ¹							
Rating Code	Vine Maturity	Internal Flesh Color	Skin Color	Skin Texture	Tuber Shape	Eye Depth	Overall Appearance
1	dead	white	purple	partial russet	round	very deep	very poor
2	+–	cream	red	heavy russet	mostly round	--	--
3	yellow and dying	light yellow	pink	moderate russet	round to oblong	deep	poor
4	+–	medium yellow	dark brown	light russet	mostly oblong	--	--
5	moderately senesced	dark yellow	brown	netted	oblong	intermediate	fair
6	+–	pink	tan	slightly netted	oblong to long	--	--
7	starting to senesce	red	buff	moderately smooth	mostly long	shallow	good
8	+–	blue	white	smooth	long	--	--
9	green and vigorous	purple	cream	very smooth	cylindrical	very shallow	excellent

¹ Adapted from Hutchinson et al. (2003) and Sisson and Porter (2002).

Table 2. Summary of production statistics and specific gravity of 'Goldrush' potato variety grown at the UF/IFAS Hastings Agricultural Extension Center, Hastings, FL from 2005 to 2019 excluding 2012.

Year	Total Yield (cwt/ac)	Marketable Yield (cwt/ac) ¹	% of Standard	Standard	Size Class (Distribution by class %) ²						Range %		Specific Gravity
					C	B	A1	A2	A3	A4	A1 to A3	Culls	
2005	295	250	96%	Red LaSoda	2	13	69	14	2	0	85	1	1.067
2006	379	320	90%	Red LaSoda	1	12	72	13	3	0	87	3	1.067
2007	396	323	84%	Red LaSoda	2	13	74	8	3	0	85	4	1.059
2008	353	251	93%	Red LaSoda	2	24	58	16	0	0	74	4	1.069
2009	400	338	106%	Red LaSoda	2	12	80	6	0	0	86	3	1.056
2010	344	238	81%	Red LaSoda	5	23	67	5	0	0	72	5	1.063
2011	319	239	85%	Red LaSoda	3	16	77	4	0	0	80	7	1.069
2013	289	232	157%	Red LaSoda	2	13	69	11	4	0	85	4	1.058
2014	289	172	89%	Red LaSoda	5	32	57	5	1	0	63	6	1.055
2015	236	130	77%	Red LaSoda	8	28	63	1	0	0	64	17	1.060
2016	262	186	185%	Red LaSoda	3	21	71	4	1	0	76	7	1.067
2017	160	73	51%	Red LaSoda	13	39	49	0	0	0	49	6	1.051
2018	198	101	51%	Red LaSoda	13	35	48	3	2	0	52	2	1.056
2019	248	203	68%	Red LaSoda	4	11	57	26	2	0	85	4	1.063
Average	298	218	94%		5	21	65	8	1	0	75	5	1.061

¹Marketable yield: Sum of size classes A1 to A3.

²Size classes: C = 0.5 to 1.5 inches, B = 1.5 to 1 7/8 inches, A1 = 1 7/8 to 2.5 inches, A2 = 2.5 to 3.25 inches, A3 = 3.25 to 4 inches, A4 >4 inches; Size distribution by class: Class (wt)/(Total Yield [wt] – culls [wt])

Table 3. Yield, vine maturity, tuber characteristics, and internal tuber defects of 'Goldrush' potato variety grown at the UF/IFAS Hastings Agricultural Extension Center, Hastings, FL from 2005 to 2019, excluding 2012.

Year	Vine Maturity (Vine Kill)	Tuber Characteristics ¹						Internal Defects ²			
		Internal Flesh Color	Skin Color	Skin Texture	Tuber Shape	Eye Depth	Overall Appearance	HH	BR	CRS	IHN
2005	7	2	5	2	5	8	7	0	0	0	0
2006	9	2	4	2	5	7	7	0	0	0	0
2007	6	1	4	2	6	7	7	0	0	0	0
2008	6	1	5	3	5	7	6	0	0	0	0
2009	4	2	5	3	4	5	6	0	0	0	0
2010	8	1	5	2	5	6	7	0	0	0	0
2011	3	*	*	*	*	*	6	0	0	28	8
2013	2	1	5	3	6	7	6	0	0	0	0
2014	6	1	5	2	5	6	6	0	0	3	1
2015	5	1	6	3	6	9	8	0	0	0	0
2016	6	1	5	3	6	7	7	0	0	0	1
2017	6	1	5	3	6	8	8	0	0	0	0
2018	4	1	5	3	6	8	8	0	0	0	0
2019	6	1	5	4	6	8	8	0	0	0	0
Average	6	1	5	3	6	7	7	0	0	2	1

¹See rating system outlined in Florida Rating Code Table (Table 1).

²Percent tuber defects. HH = hollow heart, BR = brown rot, CRS = corky ring spot, IHN = internal heat necrosis.

*not available