

Description of
Oregon Potato Shipments
1953 Crop Year

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Oregon State Department of Agriculture
cooperating
Oregon State College, Corvallis

Found in this Study:

1. Over 90 per cent of Oregon's 1953 crop of potatoes was shipped in 100-pound containers.
2. About 80 per cent were of the Netted Gem (Russet Burbank) variety.
3. More Central Oregon U.S. No. 2 potatoes were shipped in 50-pound paper bags than in 100-pound burlap bags. In the Klamath District, 96 per cent of the U.S. No. 2's were shipped in 100-pound containers.

**Description of Oregon Potato Shipments
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This report contains information relating to packaging and shipping the 1953 crop of potatoes grown in Oregon's three major producing districts. It shows for each district:

- (1) Sizes and kinds of containers used
- (2) Methods of transportation used
- (3) Grades and varieties shipped

These data were obtained from a sample of about 20,000 Federal-State inspection certificates issued for shipping the 1953 crop. Only certificates for the three major producing districts were included. These districts consist of the following counties:

Klamath District

Klamath and Lake Counties (Oregon)
Modoc and Siskiyou Counties (California)

Central Oregon District

Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties (Oregon)

Malheur District

Malheur County (Oregon)

Similar information for the 5 crop years 1950-54 will be published at a later date. It will show any trends that have been developing in the packaging and transportation of Oregon potatoes.

TABLE 1. Shipments of Potatoes by District, 1953 Crop

District	Carlot shipments ^{/a}
Klamath	10,805
Central Oregon	4,754
Malheur	3,953
Total	19,512

^{/a} Carlot equivalent to 36,000 pounds. Bulk shipments of potatoes have been excluded.

It is estimated that approximately one-half of the potatoes shipped from the Klamath District were produced in Modoc and Siskiyou Counties, California.

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TABLE 2. Grades of Potatoes Shipped
1953 Crop Year

Grade	D i s t r i c t s			All three districts (per cent)
	Klamath (per cent)	Central Oregon (per cent)	Malheur (per cent)	
U. S. No. 1	74.3	79.3	93.3	79.4
U. S. No. 2	11.1	13.7	5.4	10.6
Utility	0	1.5	.5	.5
Standard	.1	1.7	.3	.5
Percentage	6.3	.5	.2	3.7
Cull	0	1.6	0	.4
Condition inspection	3.5	0	0	1.9
Oregon combination	.4	.7	.2	.4
Seed	4.3	1.0	0	2.6
Field run	0	0	.1	0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Culls include only those that have been inspected.

TABLE 3. Proportion of U. S. No. 1 Potatoes Shipped by Rail and Truck
1953 Crop Year

Method of transportation	D i s t r i c t s			All three districts (per cent)
	Klamath (per cent)	Central Oregon (per cent)	Malheur (per cent)	
Rail	73.6	60.2	97.5	76.1
Truck	20.5	17.7	2.2	15.4
Unknown	5.9	22.1	.3	8.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The method of transporting about 22 per cent of Central Oregon U.S. No. 1 potatoes was unstated on the inspection certificates at the time these potatoes were inspected. The kind of transportation to be used was unknown.

TABLE 4. Proportion of U.S. No. 1 Grade Potatoes Shipped in Different Sized Containers
1953 Crop Year

Size container	D i s t r i c t s			All three districts (per cent)
	Klamath (per cent)	Central Oregon (per cent)	Malheur (per cent)	
5-pound	--	--	.2	.1
10-pound	2.5	9.6	13.3	6.8
25-pound	.3	2.4	--	.7
50-pound	.3	.8	4.9	1.5
100-pound	96.9	87.2	81.6	90.9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

A large quantity of potatoes was shipped in 100-pound bags. Trade sources indicate that a considerable proportion of these potatoes are repacked into smaller containers at terminal markets and in retail stores.

Federal-State Inspection Service has indicated that a small proportion of 100-pound bags inspected have been repacked at shipping point into smaller containers. The same lot of potatoes is inspected twice. The proportion of potatoes packed in 100's as shown above, therefore, has been overstated and the proportion packed in smaller containers understated. This error, however, is reported to be negligible.

TABLE 5. Proportion of U.S. No. 2 Grade Potatoes Shipped in Different Sized Containers
1953 Crop Year

Size container	D i s t r i c t s			All three districts (per cent)
	Klamath (per cent)	Central Oregon (per cent)	Malheur (per cent)	
5-pound	--	--	--	--
10-pound	--	6.6	--	2.1
25-pound	.4	1.1	--	.6
50-pound	3.9	46.6	3.2	17.3
100-pound	95.7	45.7	96.8	80.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Over 45 per cent of the U.S. No. 2 potatoes packed in Central Oregon were packed in 50-pound bags -- mostly paper containers. Klamath and Malheur Districts showed much smaller percentages. Pacific Northwest markets that take a large share of Central Oregon's production apparently have a distinct preference for the paper container for U.S. No. 2 potatoes. The California market, to which the Klamath District ships, prefers U.S. No. 2's in burlap 100's.

TABLE 6. Proportion of U.S. No. 1 Grade Klamath Potatoes Shipped in
Different Types of Containers
1953 Crop Year

Type of container	S i z e o f c o n t a i n e r			
	10- pound (per cent)	25- pound (per cent)	50- pound (per cent)	100- pound (per cent)
Burlap	--	7.9	--	80.4
Paper	69.8	4.0	--	--
Mesh	20.9	67.8	--	--
Plastic, polyethylene, or pliofilm	--	--	--	--
Wooden crate	--	--	--	19.6
Unknown	9.3	20.3	100.0	--
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Paper was the most common 10-pound container in Klamath. Mesh was used more for 25-pound bags. Potatoes in the wooden crates go mostly to the military.

TABLE 7. Proportion of U.S. No. 1 Grade Central Oregon Potatoes
Shipped in Different Types of Containers
1953 Crop Year

Type of container	S i z e o f c o n t a i n e r			
	10- pound (per cent)	25- pound (per cent)	50- pound (per cent)	100- pound (per cent)
Burlap	--	1.5	6.1	93.9
Paper	34.5	64.8	93.9	.1
Mesh	59.8	33.7	--	--
Plastic, polyethylene, or pliofilm	4.4	--	--	--
Wooden crate	--	--	--	6.0
Unknown	1.3	--	--	--
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Mesh was used for over half the 10-pound containers, while paper was the most common material for the 25- and 50-pound sizes in Central Oregon.

TABLE 8. Proportion of U.S. No. 1 Grade Malheur Potatoes Shipped
in Different Types of Containers
1953 Crop Year

Type of container	S i z e o f c o n t a i n e r				
	5- pound (per cent)	10- pound (per cent)	25- pound (per cent)	50- pound (per cent)	100- pound (per cent)
Burlap	--	--	--	80.8	100.0
Paper	--	31.5	--	16.5	--
Mesh	100.0	66.0	--	--	--
Plastic, polyethylene, or pliofilm	--	--	--	--	--
Wooden crate	--	--	--	--	--
Unknown	--	2.5	--	2.7	--
TOTAL	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0

Mesh bags were most common for 5- and 10-pound containers in the Malheur District. Burlap was used for most of the 50-pound bags.

TABLE 9. Proportion of U. S. No. 1 Grade Potatoes Shipped
in Different Types of Containers From All Districts
1953 Crop Year

Type of container	S i z e o f c o n t a i n e r				
	5- pound (per cent)	10- pound (per cent)	25- pound (per cent)	50- pound (per cent)	100- pound (per cent)
Burlap	--	--	3.0	64.0	87.8
Paper	--	39.8	51.1	25.2	--
Mesh	100.0	55.3	41.3	--	--
Plastic, polyethylene, or plionim	--	1.5	--	--	--
Wooden crate	--	--	--	--	12.2
Unknown	--	3.4	4.6	10.8	--
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 10. Proportion of U. S. No. 2 Grade Klamath Potatoes Shipped
in Different Types of Containers
1953 Crop Year

Type of container	S i z e o f c o n t a i n e r			
	10- pound (per cent)	25- pound (per cent)	50- pound (per cent)	100- pound (per cent)
Burlap	--	--	45.0	98.1
Paper	--	--	28.1	--
Mesh	--	100.0	--	--
Plastic, polyethylene, or pliofilm	--	--	--	--
Wooden crate	--	--	--	1.9
Unknown	--	--	26.9	--
TOTAL	--	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 11. Proportion of U. S. No. 2 Grade Central Oregon Potatoes Shipped
in Different Types of Containers
1953 Crop Year

Type of container	S i z e o f c o n t a i n e r			
	10- pound (per cent)	25- pound (per cent)	50- pound (per cent)	100- pound (per cent)
Burlap	--	--	4.9	100.0
Paper	.6	100.0	95.1	--
Mesh	99.4	--	--	--
Plastic, polyethylene, or pliofilm	--	--	--	--
Wooden crate	--	--	--	--
Unknown	--	--	--	--
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 12. Proportion of U. S. No. 2 Grade Malheur Potatoes Shipped
in Different Types of Containers
1953 Crop Year

Type of container	S i z e o f c o n t a i n e r			
	10- pound (per cent)	25- pound (per cent)	50- pound (per cent)	100- pound (per cent)
Burlap	--	--	66.0	100.0
Paper	--	--	--	--
Mesh	--	--	--	--
Plastic, polyethylene, or pliofilm	--	--	--	--
Wooden crate	--	--	--	--
Unknown	--	--	34.0	--
TOTAL	--	--	100.0	100.0

TABLE 13. Proportion of U. S. No. 2 Grade Potatoes
Shipped in Different Types of Containers From All Districts
1953 Crop Year

Type of container	S i z e o f c o n t a i n e r			
	10- pound (per cent)	25- pound (per cent)	50- pound (per cent)	100- pound (per cent)
Burlap	--	--	11.3	98.7
Paper	.6	56.2	84.6	--
Mesh	99.4	43.8	--	--
Plastic, polyethylene, or pliofilm	--	--	--	--
Wooden crate	--	--	--	1.3
Unknown	--	--	4.1	--
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 14. Proportion of U. S. No. 1 Potatoes in 10-Pound Bags
Shipped in Master Container
1953 Crop Year

Container	P r o d u c i n g A r e a s			
	Klamath (per cent)	Central Oregon (per cent)	Malheur (per cent)	All areas (per cent)
Master container	97.7	92.3	86.4	93.7
No master container	2.3	7.7	13.6	6.3
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 15. Relative Importance of Different Varieties of Potatoes Shipped
1953 Crop Year

Variety	D i s t r i c t s			
	Klamath (per cent)	Central Oregon (per cent)	Malheur (per cent)	All three districts (per cent)
Netted Gems or Russet Burbanks	86.4	99.5	35.4	79.2
White Rose or long whites	12.1	.3	38.0	14.5
Bliss Triumph or round reds	.4	--	26.6	5.6
Other <u>/1</u>	1.1	.2	--	.7
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

/1 Includes Chippewa, Kennebec, and round whites.

Netted Gems or Russet Burbanks accounted for almost 80 per cent of the potatoes shipped from the three districts.

TABLE 16. Proportion of Potatoes of all Grades Shipped by Months
1953 Crop Year

Month	D i s t r i c t s			All three districts (per cent)
	Klamath (per cent)	Central Oregon (per cent)	Malheur (per cent)	
July, 1953	--	--	22.8	4.6
August, 1953	.1	--	53.5	10.9
September, 1953	1.5	6.8	22.2	7.0
October, 1953	13.7	19.4	.1	12.3
November, 1953	11.9	13.4	.1	9.9
December, 1953	15.2	13.3	--	11.7
January, 1954	16.7	13.9	.1	12.6
February, 1954	11.5	12.1	1.0	9.5
March, 1954	14.1	11.1	--	10.5
April, 1954	9.0	9.0	.2	7.2
May, 1954	6.2	1.0	--	3.7
June, 1954	.1	--	--	.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Peak shipping months for Klamath were December and January and for Central Oregon, October. Malheur County shipped 98 per cent of its potatoes during July, August, and September. Over half moved out in August.