

29 August 2014

## POTATO PLANTINGS BY VARIETY IN GREAT BRITAIN FOR 2014

The AHDB/PCL has now produced provisional estimates of planted areas by variety for Great Britain for 2014. These are shown in Table 1 with comparisons to the five previous seasons. The total planted area for GB is now estimated at **121,900 ha<sup>1</sup>**. This revises upwards the end-June provisional estimate of 119,900 ha and is based on a sample of 2,013 growers. The area update has been made following the incorporation of additional data, including some relatively large planting returns, since the end-June estimate which was based on 63% of registered area. The updated 2014 area estimate is still slightly down on the 2013 season plantings of 122,400 ha.

Table 1 shows the top-50 most common varieties that account for 85% of total GB area. The multipurpose variety *Maris Piper* remains the dominant variety, accounting for 16% of the planted area and is used in the pre-packing, fresh-chipping and processing sectors. The varieties in the top five are unchanged from last year and account for 34% of total plantings in 2014. *Maris Piper* has seen a rebound following seven consecutive years of decline, with 6% more planted in 2014. *Maris Peer* area is estimated lower for the third year in a row whilst *Markies* plantings are seen to have recovered to a level similar to 2012.

Varieties moving up the rankings for GB as a whole since 2009 have included *Agria* (up 25 places to 14<sup>th</sup>), *Innovator* (up 22 places to 11<sup>th</sup>), *Melody* (up 8 places to 6<sup>th</sup>), *Maris Peer* (up 2 places to 3<sup>rd</sup>) and *Markies* (up 2 places to 2<sup>nd</sup>). The biggest fallers since 2009 have been *Saturna* (down 29 places to 39<sup>th</sup>), *Premiere* (down 25 places to 41<sup>st</sup>), *Maris Bard* (down 13 to 40<sup>th</sup>), *Saxon* (down 11 to 18<sup>th</sup>), and *Accord* (down 9 to 31<sup>st</sup>).

In Scotland, the mix of varieties is slightly different although *Maris Piper* is again ranked first. Others in the top 10, in order, are: *Hermes*, *Rooster*, *Cultra*, *Osprey*, *Maris Peer*, *Saxon*, *Charlotte*, *Vivaldi* and *Vales Sovereign*. These varieties account for 56% of all plantings in Scotland. *Estima* remains the most popular variety in Wales.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistical 95% confidence limits for the estimate are  $\pm 0.7\%$ , implying that the final figure for 2014 could lie anywhere in the range from 121,000 to 122,800 ha.

**Table 1: GB plantings by variety 2009-14***Areas in hectares. 2014 estimates are provisional as at mid-August 2014.*

Rank order	Variety	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014			Total †
							England	Scotland	Wales	
1	Maris Piper	23,574	22,935	20,780	19,301	18,213	14,252	4,889	79	<b>19,220</b>
2	Markies	6,257	7,132	7,415	7,520	6,988	7,044	†	†	<b>7,527</b>
3	Maris Peer	6,175	5,881	5,669	6,480	6,191	4,341	1,231	38	<b>5,611</b>
4	Lady Rosetta	6,922	6,831	6,764	6,525	7,101	5,073	248	-	<b>5,322</b>
5	Estima	10,483	8,723	7,954	5,958	4,420	3,854	331	114	<b>4,299</b>
6	Melody	2,559	3,842	4,534	3,749	3,718	3,917	41	91	<b>4,050</b>
7	Harmony	3,972	3,966	3,656	3,781	3,807	2,294	†	†	<b>3,388</b>
8	Marfona	4,832	4,180	4,369	3,384	3,313	2,922	172	81	<b>3,175</b>
9	Hermes	4,021	4,107	4,778	4,580	3,457	†	1,500	†	<b>2,724</b>
10	King Edward	3,377	3,160	3,103	2,817	2,737	2,119	†	†	<b>2,479</b>
11	Innovator	739	1,282	1,401	1,295	1,556	2,040	212	-	<b>2,253</b>
12	Pentland Dell	3,229	3,056	2,925	3,139	2,998	1,871	320	-	<b>2,191</b>
13	Desiree	3,354	3,167	3,012	2,801	2,528	1,519	†	†	<b>2,045</b>
14	Agria	433	766	1,048	1,169	2,054	1,822	†	†	<b>1,830</b>
15	Rooster	2,529	2,710	1,841	1,771	1,991	288	1,493	-	<b>1,781</b>
16	Charlotte	2,046	1,973	2,036	1,996	1,868	1,273	455	45	<b>1,773</b>
17	Russet Burbank	1,453	1,671	1,809	1,864	1,787	1,401	†	†	<b>1,586</b>
18	Saxon	4,162	3,261	2,821	2,040	1,737	625	902	-	<b>1,527</b>
19	Cabaret	1,985	1,945	2,078	1,902	1,830	1,248	259	-	<b>1,507</b>
20	Challenger	-	-	452	735	978	1,480	†	†	<b>1,482</b>
21	VR 808	-	-	67	161	907	1,316	†	†	<b>1,475</b>
22	Cultra	1,630	1,167	1,367	1,425	1,654	†	1,465	†	<b>1,469</b>
23	Fontane	935	1,538	2,121	2,100	1,921	1,429	37	-	<b>1,466</b>
24	Ramos	-	†	666	776	1,194	1,323	59	†	<b>1,384</b>
25	Sagitta	68	192	375	674	1,016	1,305	64	-	<b>1,369</b>
26	Osprey	1,634	1,461	1,578	1,664	1,666	†	1,342	†	<b>1,363</b>
27	Sylvana	-	†	621	814	985	950	362	-	<b>1,313</b>
28	Arsenal	-	-	-	18	460	1,191	90	-	<b>1,281</b>
29	Wilja	1,381	1,319	1,154	1,138	1,173	900	298	12	<b>1,210</b>
30	Nectar	46	135	376	605	836	1,147	53	-	<b>1,200</b>
31	Accord	1,470	1,197	1,023	950	864	1,011	†	†	<b>1,039</b>
32	Royal	-	†	194	392	679	850	140	-	<b>990</b>
33	Amora	187	369	485	774	1,011	888	55	12	<b>955</b>
34	Lady Claire	633	1,025	937	1,076	1,075	900	†	†	<b>916</b>
35	Shepody	1,015	1,047	1,047	979	848	704	134	-	<b>839</b>
36	Electra	-	-	89	330	647	724	†	†	<b>812</b>
37	Taurus	-	-	-	114	602	769	†	†	<b>774</b>
38	Vivaldi	733	553	756	667	757	330	426	-	<b>756</b>
39	Saturna	3,539	3,578	3,241	2,449	1,081	671	48	-	<b>719</b>
40	Maris Bard	1,063	867	996	841	740	655	54	3	<b>712</b>
41	Premiere	2,173	1,699	1,444	1,226	870	591	84	27	<b>702</b>
42	Orchestra	-	-	113	224	533	435	267	-	<b>702</b>
43	Vales Sovereign	803	729	804	834	459	237	408	-	<b>646</b>
44	Gemson	20	48	197	288	426	391	184	68	<b>642</b>
45	Mozart	284	313	369	538	552	602	†	†	<b>610</b>
46	Shelford	-	-	-	-	78	533	75	-	<b>607</b>
47	Jelly	-	-	-	-	579	549	14	-	<b>563</b>
48	Saphire	119	242	358	328	482	436	86	-	<b>522</b>
49	Valor	514	511	436	455	680	107	366	-	<b>473</b>
50	Safari	12	30	50	140	339	327	87	-	<b>413</b>
<b>Sub-total ‡</b>		<b>110,360</b>	<b>108,647</b>	<b>109,305</b>	<b>104,790</b>	<b>104,386</b>	<b>81,880</b>	<b>21,007</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>103,687</b>
Other varieties		19,871	18,240	19,128	17,033	18,056	13,568	4,066	549	18,183
<b>Total †</b>		<b>130,231</b>	<b>126,887</b>	<b>128,433</b>	<b>121,823</b>	<b>122,442</b>	<b>95,448</b>	<b>25,073</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>121,870</b>

† Unable to publish figure without risk of disclosure of data relating to individual farms. This is when the data relates to 3 or fewer growers. Where the estimate for a variety in a region has been removed, the region with the second largest area has also been removed due to the GB total figure also being presented.

‡ Totals may not tally exactly due to rounding

- No area planted