

## Potatoes in Practice

August in Dundee, lots of rain, it must be time for Potatoes in Practice! Only it didn't rain this year and over 700 visitors enjoyed the almost unique experience of basking in the sunshine, perusing seed potato varieties on the slopes outside of Invergowrie.

The main topic of conversation, in the sunshine, was the poor crop expectations for 2012 caused by the poor growing conditions, rain obviously, disease, low yields and a difficult harvest.

The event is advertised as Britain's largest field based potato event, and for the first time in many years, visitors were actually able to walk the field.



Unfortunately, this meant that the exhibitors in the marquee had a much quieter time than over the last few years. Never the less we renewed old acquaintances and met several overseas customers.

One of our main topics of discussion, centered on Olympus; a relatively new crisping variety which we have been multiplying and growing commercially in Europe for a number of years.

Olympus stores well, maintaining stable sugars and produces extremely low levels of acrylamide during processing. This is now an urgent requirement for the crisp manufacturers and Olympus has been approved by a number of leading crisp producers.

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