

Potato varieties grown in Bhutan

The main potato cultivar grown in Bhutan is the red-skinned *Desiree* (90 % of production in 2008) which was first introduced in 1970. Other varieties include *Kufri Jyoti* (4% of production in 2008), *Yusikaap* (4 %), *Khangma Kaap* (< 1 %), and the recently-released NKK. In selected pockets some old varieties have survived and are still preferred. They include varieties known as *Bombay white*, *Darjeeling red round* and *Hazarey* (Roder *et al.* 2008). Cultivars continue to be tested for Bhutan, the best of which are expected to be released in the near future.



Desiree. This is a red-skinned variety valued for better prices and good eating, processing and storing/keeping qualities. Tubers are long oval in shape, have smooth red to pink skin and the flesh is light yellow, buff.



Kufri Jyoti. A white-skinned variety which some growers believe to be less susceptible to wild boar damage when compared to red-skinned potato. Tubers are oval in shape, and have white skin and flesh.



Yusikaap. A white-skinned variety which some growers believe to be less susceptible to wild boar damage when compared to red-skinned potato. Tubers are short-oval in shape, have slightly rough, white skin, and the flesh is yellow.



Khangma Kaap. Tubers are oblong in shape, have smooth white-cream skin, and the flesh is white.

Table 1. Summary data on the main varieties being grown in Bhutan.

| Cultivar | Production (in 2008) | Late blight | Wart |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Desiree | 90% | Susceptible/some resistance | Good resistance |
| Kufri Jyoti | 4% | Moderate | Good resistance |
| Khangma Kaap | < 1% | Some resistance | Good resistance |
| Yusikaap | 4% | Moderate | Good resistance |
| NKK | Newly released | Good resistance | Not tested |

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