

# **New method for decrease of Potato blight worldwide**

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Potato blight in general is decreased by 100% in the Northern Hemisphere when the cultivation of the soil takes place either between February 15 and March 10, or between November 1-19. Thus the research findings of Hans Bruinsma whose research was inspired by colleagues M. Thun, L. Kolisko and G. Schmidt.

These findings are particularly important for countries where potatoes constitute the staple in the diets of a large percentage of their populations and which live with the spectre of the potato famine in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century which devastated the Irish Economy and led to a mass exodus. These countries include much of Northern Europe and North America as well as countries such as India and China where rice production is at present decreasing and the cultivation of potatoes is being considered as a replacement.

Normally, in the Northern Hemisphere, the ground is cultivated for potatoes repeatedly between August and May. Within these 10 months the above two periods also make a distinct difference in the potato yield which can be as high as 200% when organic methods are applied. In addition, the periods of March 11 to April 19 and of November 19 to December 19, which are already frequently used, have a neutral to positive effect. For the Southern Hemisphere the period June 19 to August 10 is also advised. All other cultivation periods have in general a *detrimental* effect on potato health and production.

Bruinsma points out that in addition each individual potato specie also has its own preference for when the soil is cultivated. Thus farmers can therefore choose the species that are best suited to when it is most convenient for them to cultivate the soil. This additional measure to tailor species to the preference of soil cultivation is a valuable means for further improvement of the quality, health and productivity.

"All life on Earth lives in a dynamic relationship with natural systems. The impact of this relationship is often neglected", says Bruinsma." Since the industrial revolution, Western agriculture has relied heavily on the use of artificial fertilizers, gene technology and pesticides. These have become powerful industries which have tended to shape the Western view of the world. It is therefore often more difficult to introduce improvements that rely on an understanding of how natural systems work. Eastern cultures, by contrast, go back millennia and tend to be more open to the above biodynamic approach.

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