Composting: Any cull potatoes stored for later composting must meet cull potato storage pile criteria for the dates stored. For soils, setbacks and slope requirements, see the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Rules for Composting of Type 1 residuals found in Rules for Land Application of Sludges and Residuals. For recipe mix and procedure, see "Composting Potato Culls and Potato Processing Wastes" developed by Woods End Research Laboratory and Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, 1990. Note: Alternative approaches to composting may also be implemented with Department of Agriculture approval.

Ensiling: Any cull potatoes stored for later ensiling must meet cull potato storage pile criteria for the dates stored. Unless the ensiling process will be self contained, it must take place on well drained soils that are at least 40 inches to bedrock and are not sands or gravels and are in accordance with Maine Agricultural Experiment Station Miscellaneous Report 318. Ensiling sites must be on 6% or less slopes and must be at least 100 feet from neighboring dwellings, property lines, wells, springs, waterbodies, streams, gullies, swales, ravines, and downslope diversion ditches. All cull potatoes being ensiled must be covered while they are in the process of ensiling in accordance with covering criteria listed for cull storage piles during the June 10 – October 1 time period. Refer to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension fact sheet "Feeding Potatoes to Livestock" for proper ensiling mix and procedures.

CULL POTATO TRANSPORT

Cull potatoes being transported must be covered by a tarp, plastic sheet or similar method to prevent the spread of disease spores and to prevent the escape of culls, which can sprout and become a source of disease spores. If cull potatoes being transported are starting to breakdown and generate leachate, they must be transported in a secure truck body, a watertight container or mixed with an absorptive bulking agent such as soil or sawdust.

VARIANCES

If a potato farmer or handler finds that it is not possible or practical to comply with any provision of the cull potato disposal rules, he/she can submit, in writing, a request for a variance to the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. There must be no reasonable alternative to the variance request and it must be accompanied with provisions to overcome the site, soil or setback reduction.

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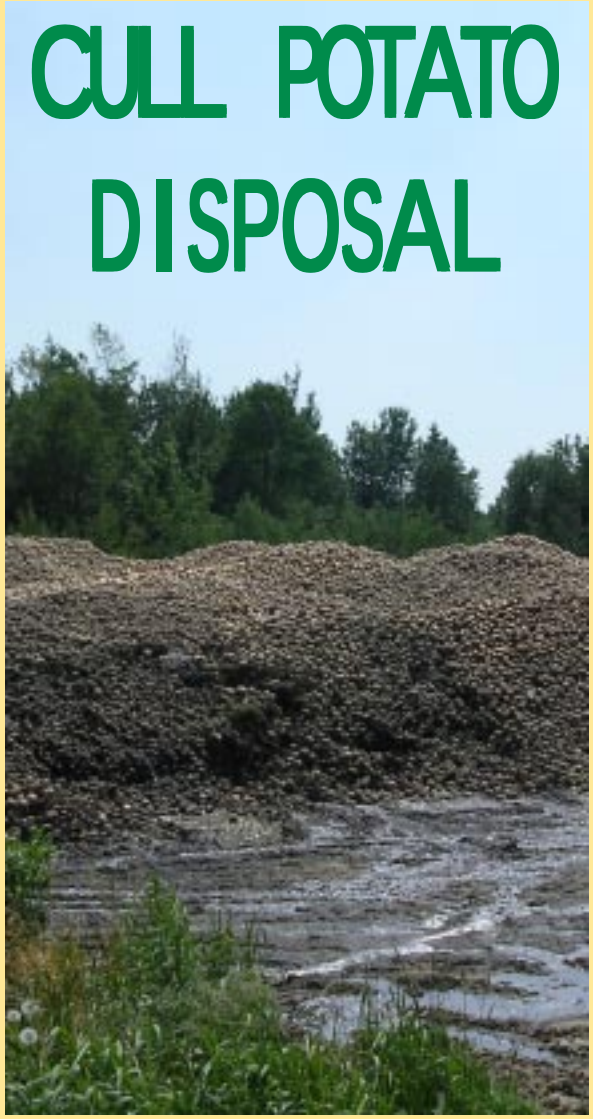
CULL POTATO DISPOSAL



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW IF YOU GROW OR HANDLE POTATOES

CULL POTATO DISPOSAL

The potato industry in Maine depends on the proper handling of cull or waste potatoes to prevent the spread of diseases that can potentially cause severe economic loss or even wipe out the crop. Proper cull potato disposal is also an important environmental consideration. Because it is so important to properly handle cull potatoes, the Maine Department of Agriculture has developed Cull Potato Disposal Rules and Best Management Practices. Copies can be obtained at the Maine Department of Agriculture in Augusta , telephone: (207) 287-1132, or on the web at: www.maine.gov/agriculture/ahi; or the Maine Potato Board in Presque Isle, telephone (207) 769-5061; your local Soil and Water Conservation district Office or the local office of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Office.

It is Illegal to have Uncontrolled Cull Potato Piles between June 10 and October 1 of any year

An uncontrolled cull pile is one that has **NOT** been properly covered so it is a potential source of disease spores that can infect potato plants growing in farmers' fields

CULL POTATO STORAGE PILES

October 1 – March 1: Cull piles do not need to be covered during this time period since disease spores will not be generated and potato plants are not growing in farmers fields. Keep piles at least 50 feet away from wells, springs, ponds, lakes and streams and out of wetlands and 100 year or less flood plains.

March 1 – June 10: Cull piles do not need to be covered during this time period but must be self contained or placed on well drained soils that have at least 40 inches to bedrock, are not sands or gravels and follow Maine Agricultural Experiment Station Miscellaneous Report 318 (Tuber Stockpile Compound). They must be at least 100 feet from neighboring dwellings, property lines, wells, springs, waterbodies, streams, gullies, ravines, swales, and downslope diversions.

June 10 – October 1: Cull piles **DO NEED TO BE COVERED** during this time period and must meet the soil, siting and setback requirements listed for cull piles from March 1– June 10 above. Acceptable coverings include 6 mil or thicker black polyethylene that is secured, 6" minimum layer of sawdust or 12" minimum layer of soil.

CULL POTATO DISPOSAL

Winter Spreading: Is an acceptable disposal method between the dates of October 1 – March 15 south of the southerly boundary of the Southern Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District and October 1 – March 30 north of that boundary. Spreading rates are up to 400 barrels per acre for well drained soils with at least 40 inches to bedrock and up to 300 barrels per acre for moderately well drained soils and those with between 20" and 40" to bedrock. Spreading must not be any closer than 100 feet from wells, springs, ponds, streams and lakes and can not take place in depressions or swales. Slopes must be 15% or less.

Burial: See Maine Department of Environmental Protection Permit-By-Rule for Cull Potato Disposal by Burial for requirements.

Farm Animal Feed: Any cull potatoes stored as feed must meet cull potato storage pile criteria for the dates stored. Free range feeding is only allowed during the dates when winter spreading is allowed. Only the amount of potatoes that can be reasonably expected to be eaten on a daily basis--about 100 pounds per 1,000 pounds of animal weight--can be fed. Feed areas must be used that prevent potatoes from being pushed into the ground where they can sprout and become a source of disease.