



# BLAZER RUSSET

Early Yielding with Excellent Culinary  
Qualities



## SUMMARY

Released in 2005, Blazer Russet is an early-maturing, dual-purpose variety that has found a niche within the processing industry as a replacement for Shepody. Its attractive appearance and excellent culinary qualities also make it a good candidate for fresh pack. Blazer Russet is resistant to tuber external defects, sugar ends, common and powdery scab of the tuber, and PVX. It is moderately resistant to blackspot bruise and tuber late blight. Blazer Russet has moderate susceptibility to hollow heart.

## MANAGEMENT

**Seed & Planting:** Blazer Russet has an intermediate number of eyes that are uniformly distributed and seed pieces should range from about 2.0 to 3.0 oz. Seed should be planted at near optimal temperatures (50o F) to minimize the potential for soft rot decay. Dry rot potential of seed lots should also be determined and seed should be treated with an effective fungicide when needed. Optimal seed piece spacing for 36 inch wide rows is 9 to 11 inches with a 5 to 6 inch planting depth. Adequate soil needs to be applied to the surface of the hill at final hilling to minimize tuber greening.

**Fertility:** Total seasonal nitrogen requirements for Blazer Russet are about 90 to 100% of Russet Burbank but a higher proportion should be applied early in the growing season to facilitate the earlier tuber development. Typically, 1/2 to 2/3 of the seasonal N requirement should be applied by row closure, with subsequent in-season applications being based on petiole nitrate concentrations. For southern Idaho, the combined total of soil plus fertilizer N for Blazer Russet should range from about 80 lb N/a in areas with a 400 cwt/a yield potential to 115 lb N/a in areas with a 600 cwt/a yield potential. Nitrogen uptake decreases substantially after August 1 so applications should not be made after that time. Nitrogen response studies conducted for two years at Aberdeen, Idaho indicate that petiole nitrate sufficiency levels for Blazer Russet are similar to those for Russet Burbank.

## DISEASE RATINGS

### RESISTANT

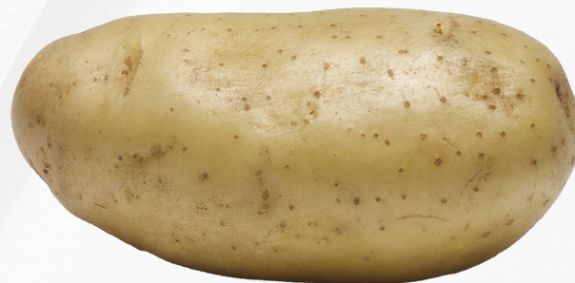
- Common Scab (very resistant)
- Powdery Scab
- PVX

### MODERATELY RESISTANT

- Late Blight Tuber

### MODERATELY SUSCEPTIBLE

- PVY
- Dry Rot
- Soft Rot



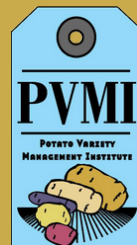
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**Irrigation:** Seasonal irrigation requirements for Blazer Russet are also similar to those for Russet Burbank, although Blazer Russet is significantly more resistant to water stress-related tuber defects. Therefore, available soil moisture (ASM) should be maintained within the range of 65 to 80% for optimal yield and quality. Plant water uptake decreases appreciably in late August, so irrigation application rates need to be adjusted according to soil moisture measurements to avoid developing excessively wet soil conditions that promote disease. Bruise susceptibility is similar to Russet Burbank. Consequently, low soil moisture (<60%ASM) conditions should be avoided during tuber maturation and harvest to minimize tuber dehydration.

## STORAGE

- Shorter natural dormancy than Russet Burbank by 40—50 days
- Get CIPC on 95 – 135 days after harvest
- Cure 55°F, then ramp to storage Temp 45-48°F– frozen processing
- Mottling – low, no sugar ends

## WEAKNESSES

- Short dormancy, but research indicates can be stored for up to 9 months.
- Some pointed ends
- Moderate susceptibility to hollow heart

## OTHER NOTES

Blazer Russet has exhibited good resistance to metribuzin when applied at labeled rates.