Nora Olsen
Professor and Extension Potato Specialist
Department of Plant Sciences, University of Idaho, Kimberly, ID 83341
(208) 423-6634; norao@uidaho.edu

EDUCATION:

Ph.D., Horticulture, 1998, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington
M.S., Horticulture, 1994, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington
B.A., Chemistry, 1990, Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut

EXPERIENCE:

Teaching and Research:

2012-present, Professor, University of Idaho, Kimberly, Idaho
2005-2012, Associate Professor, University of Idaho, Twin Falls, Idaho
1998-2005, Assistant Professor, University of Idaho, Twin Falls, Idaho
1992-98, Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington

Extension and Service:

2023-present, Vice-President, World Potato Congress
2013-2022, Director, World Potato Congress
2013-2014, President, Potato Association of America
2011-2012, Vice-President, Potato Association of America
2009-2011, Director, Potato Association of America
2009- 2013, Member, North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Technical Advisory Group on Sprout Inhibition
2006-2017, Processing Editor for Potato Research, the journal of the European Association for Potato Research (EAPR)
2004-05; 2017-18, Chair, Potato Association of America Physiology Section
2001-02, Chair, Potato Association of America Extension Section
2001, 2006, 2009, 2013, 2014, 2020, 2021, 2022 Co-Chair, Idaho Potato Conference

Honors and Awards:

2019, Honorary Life Member, Potato Association of America
2013, Outstanding Extension Project Award, Potato Association of America
2012, Excellence in Outreach & Extension Award, University of Idaho

Presented over 600 extension and scientific presentations and authored or co-authored over 600 scientific and extension deliverables.

PUBLICATIONS (refereed; selected in past two years):

Moore, A., A. Leytem, N. Olsen and W. Price. 2024. Dairy manure influences soil properties, plant nutrient uptake, and tuber quality in potatoes. Agronomy J. DOI: 10.1002/agj2.21660

Gelles, N.A., N. Olsen, M.K. Thornton, and A.V. Karasev. 2024. Methods to induce sprouting in dormancy potato tubers for direct tuber testing of potato virus Y. Am. J. of Potato Research doi.org/10.1007/s12230-024-09960-8.

Hendricks, R.L., N. Olsen, M. Thornton, and P. Hatzenbuehler. 2024. Use of an impact recording device to determine the risk of bruising in packaged potatoes. Am. J. of Potato Research 101:142-152.

Blauer, J.M., R.G. Novy, J.L. Whitworth, V. Sathuvalli, M.J. Pavek, N.R. Knowles, L.O. Knowles, N. Fuller, N. Baley, B.A. Charlton, C.C. Shock, S. Yilma, R. Qin, E. Feibert, I. Vales, J.C. Stark, R.R. Spear, M. Thornton, and N. Olsen. 2023. Rainier Russet: A dual use russet potato with long tuber dormancy, excellent process quality, and high harvest packaging efficiency. Am. J of Potato Research https://doi.org/10.1007/s12230-023-09935-1.

Sathuvalli, V., N. Baley, B. Charlton, C. Shock, S. Yilma, R. Qin, E. Feibert, M.I. Vales, R. Novy, J. Whitworth, C. Brown, D. Navarre, J. Stark, M. Pavek, R. Knowles, L. Knowles, J. Blauer, T. Brandt, Y. Wang, M. Thornton, R. Spear, N. Olsen. 2023. Echo Russet: A russet variety with a high yield of marketable tubers, high processing quality, and few tuber defects. Am. J of Potato Research 100:15-26.

Hendricks, R., N. Olsen, M. Thornton, and P. Hatzenbuehler. 2022. Susceptibility of potato cultivars to blackspot and shatter bruise at three impact heights. Am. J of Potato Research 99:358-368.

Novy, R.G., J.L. Whitworth, J.C. Stark, R.R. Spear, B.L. Schneider, M.J. Pavek, N.R. Knowles, L.O. Knowles, B.A. Charlton, V. Sathuvalli, S. Yilma, C.R. Brown, T. Brandt, Y. Wang. M. Thornton, and N. Olsen. 2022. La Belle Russet: an Early Maturing, Dual-Purpose Variety Having a High Percentage of Marketable Yield, Long Tuber Dormancy, and a Reduced Incidence of Sugar Ends. Am. J of Potato Research 98:395–410.

Sadeghi, R., F. Fang, Y. Shao, N. Olsen, B. Du, and A. Hui-Mei Lin. 2022. Eliminating protein interference when quantifying potato reducing sugars with the miniaturized Somogyi-Nelson assay. 2022. Food Chemistry. 373(2022) 131473.

Tran, L., K. Green, M. Rodriguez-Rodriquez, G. Orellana, C. Funke, O. Nikolaeva, A. Quintero-Ferrer, M. Chikh-Ali, L. Woodell, N. Olsen and A. Karasev. 2022. Prevalence of recombinant strains of potato virus Y in seed potato planted in Idaho and Washington states between 2011 and 2021. Plant Disease.106(3): 810-817 https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-08-21-1852-SR.

EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS (selected in past year):

Spence, T., N. Olsen, M. Thornton, K. Duellman, R. Hendricks. 2024. Impact of freezing temperatures on potato tubers. University of Idaho Extension BUL 1073.

Teixeira, G., S. Paytosh, R. Spear, and N. Olsen. 2023. Respiration of potatoes during storage. University of Idaho Extension BUL 1061.

Olsen, N., R. Hendricks, and J. Miller. 2024. Handle with care. Spudman Magazine. April 2024.

Karasev, A. and N. Olsen. Slow but steady progress being made in PVY resistant potatoes. Potato Grower Magazine. April 2024. 53(4)28-29.

Olsen, N., A. Adjesiwor, R. Spear, M. Thornton, E. Wenninger, J. Miller and P. Wharton. 2023. Agronomics of Leasing Fields for Potato Production. University of Idaho Extension BUL 1038.