

## Idaho Fast Facts

<b>State:</b> Idaho	<b>Capital:</b> Boise	<b>Founded:</b> July 3, 1890
<b>Population:</b> ≈ 1,393,262	<b>GSP:</b> US \$43.6 billion	<b>Motto:</b> Esto Perpetua (Latin - Let it be perpetual)
<b>Origin of State's Name:</b> Idaho is a coined or invented word, and is not a derivation of an Indian phrase "E Dah Hoe (How)" supposedly meaning "gem of the mountains."		

### POPULATION GROWTH:

A tremendous growth in population makes Idaho the sixth fastest-growing state after [Arizona](#), [Nevada](#), [Florida](#), [Georgia](#), and [Utah](#). From 2004 to 2005, Idaho grew the third fastest, surpassed only by Nevada and Arizona.

### MAIN AGRICULTURE CROP:

Idaho is an important agricultural state, producing nearly one third of the [potatoes](#) grown in the United States.

### VOLUME OF POTATO PRODUCTION:

Potato is the fourth most important food crop in the world after wheat, rice, and maize. Potato production represents roughly half of the world's annual output of all roots and tubers. In a 2002 report, revenues from potato production in Idaho were estimated to be \$885 million.

(Eborn, Benjamin. "Idaho Crop and Livestock Cash Receipts, Farm Program Payments and Farm Income Projections for 2002." Jan. 2003. University of Idaho: College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. 25 April 2007.

<http://www.agls.uidaho.edu/gtaylor/Docs/IdahoCrop&LivestockfinalReport1.doc>).

### TYPE OF POTATOES:

Nearly all of the potatoes grown within the borders of the state of Idaho are one variety, the **Russet Burbank**. The persistence of Luther Burbank in returning again and again to search for the single seed pod was the factor that held in balance the future of the Idaho potato industry. Certainly the contribution of Luther Burbank, the great plant breeder, to Idaho agriculture is one of astronomical size and very difficult to measure.

Idaho's **first potato grower** was not a farmer at all, but a Presbyterian missionary, *Henry Harmon Spalding*. Ironically, no potatoes are currently grown in the area of the state (Lapwai) where the first crop was planted.

The **first substantial potato fields planted in Idaho** belonged to *Mormon colonists*. Historical accounts indicate that their presence in Idaho was partially an accident. The Mormon farmers had been directed to establish a new colony north of the Salt Lake Valley area in the Cache Valley. Believing they were still in Utah, the new families of settlers began immediately to establish their farms. Potatoes were one of the first items the farmers planted.

This is the first recorded planting of potatoes in Idaho in an area where the settlers remained and the crop is still grown to some extent today. The planting was accomplished three years before the Idaho Territory was organized.

Sources: <http://132.178.236.111/information/otherprojects/potato/ancient.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho>

<http://www.geocities.com/willboyne/nosurrender/PotatoFacts.html#Potato%20Production>