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**Eighteen Potato Varieties Tried at Local Organic Farm**

Growers from Ulster, Dutchess and Orange Counties gathered at Taliaferro Farms in New Paltz on September 8 where a potato trial was conducted this summer by New York State Integrated Pest Management Program and Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County. The potatoes had been harvested a week before the twilight meeting. Each variety was labeled and displayed in crates for growers. Growers were provided with data on yield, pest resistance and survey information from chefs on culinary attributes of each variety.

Over the past four years, Ulster County has hosted four potato trials on different farms. These trials are helping growers learn more than which is the best yielding spud! What started as an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to evaluating potato varieties for resistance to the potato leaf hopper evolved into a three-part potato promotional project: locally grown (Grown in New York), ecologically grown (IPM), and the culinary use of specific potato varieties.

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