

## **New Potato Varieties on the Block Courtesy of Matapiri Seed Sales (Pvt) Ltd**

### **Introduction**

Matapiri Seed Sales is glad to announce an early Xmas present to its valued clients in the form of registration on the National catalogue of four highly productive new additions of potato varieties under its stable for their unfettered access. The four varieties in question are in two sector groups with three namely under the traditional/fresh market sector group and the remainder under the French fries sector group. Registration was done following VCU trials implying that the varieties were trialled under the best farm practises in both summer and winter seasons with a much better performance realised in the former. Foliage blight which is usually a threat to potato production was managed very well by routine preventative chemical sprays and as a result never registered any economic crop damage. The traditional/ fresh market varieties include Allison, Sababa and Tyson with Alverstone Russet falling under the French fries sector group. Below are the characteristics of each variety starting off with the three traditional varieties and winding up with the French fries variety.

#### **1. Allison**

##### Agronomic Characteristics

- Very high yield potential
- Medium to long Maturity: 100- 120 days from emergence to natural foliage dieback
- In spite of the late maturity, Allison is an early bulker
- Predominantly large and medium sized tubers
- Uniform tuber size and long oval shape
- Good eating quality
- Good keeping quality
- Dry matter content of 20.2%
- Good drought tolerance
- Good resistance to both *Globodera pallida* and common scab

#### **2. Sababa**

##### Agronomic Characteristics

- high yield potential
- Medium maturity: 90- 110 days from emergence to natural foliage dieback
- Predominantly large and medium sized tubers
- Uniform tuber size and oval shape
- gives high tuber numbers per plant
- Good keeping quality

- Good eating quality hence suitable for general home use with home fries qualities
- Dry matter content of 19.3%
- good drought tolerance
- resistance to both common scab and powdery scab

### **3. Tyson**

- Very high yield potential: Yields equal to those cultivars with longer growing periods may be obtained under irrigation
- Short to medium maturity: 80- 100 days from emergence to natural foliage dieback
- Predominantly large and medium sized tubers
- Uniform tuber size and round oval shape
- gives high tuber numbers per plant
- Good eating quality
- Good keeping quality
- Dry matter content of 19.8%
- Good scab resistance
- Good tolerance to metribuzin (Sencor)

### **4. Alverstone Russet**

- Very high yield potential
- Medium to long maturity: 100- 120 days from emergence to natural foliage dieback
- Predominantly large and medium sized tubers
- gives high tuber numbers per plant
- Good eating Quality
- Good keeping quality
- Good processing quality thus suitable for French fries.
- Dry matter content of 22.7%
- Good resistance to *Globodera pallida*