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## Mashua information and growing instructions

Blanca is an heirloom variety, reportedly from Colombia. It is also sold under the names Pilifera (which is technically the name of a botanical variety) and Sidney. This is the most widespread mashua variety in the United States.

## Culinary Traits

Blanca is both slightly sweet and slightly cabbagey. The cooked flesh is moderately firm and remains white.

## Agronomic Traits

Early to emerge in the spring. Plants are tall on trellis, reaching ten feet or more. This variety has a high yield, with plants on trellis producing 10 pounds or more. Tubers form early but don't bulk up rapidly, so it needs a mild fall to reach its maximum. This is a fall flowering variety.

## What you will receive

### Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in plastic bag with damp peat.

### Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because mashua is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

**Price:** \$8.50 - \$32.50

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Mashua information and growing instructions

This is an OSSI open source variety. Click for more information about open source seeds.

Copalis is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2015. We selected this from several dozen open pollinated seedlings of the variety Blanca as the one with the mildest flavor. It isn't the most exciting looking variety, but if you want to make mashua a regular part of your diet, it's a good choice.

## Culinary Traits

Copalis is a great beginner mashua, as it has a very mild flavor. It is slightly sweet with almost no cabbagey flavor and the flesh remains moderately firm at typical cooking duration (1 hour at 350 degrees F). I find this one is even palatable raw in salads as long as you don't overdo it. The tubers are white with pink eyes and do not darken when cooked.

## Agronomic Traits

Early to emerge in the spring. Plants are very tall on trellis, similar to its parent, Blanca. High yielding. Tubers form early but don't bulk up rapidly, so it needs a mild fall to reach its maximum. This is a fall flowering variety and about middle of the pack in timing.

## What you will receive

### Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in plastic bag with damp peat.

### Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because mashua is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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Mashua information and growing instructions

This is an OSSl open source variety. Click for more information about open source seeds.

Hoh is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2016. This is our best producer, with earlier tuber production than most other varieties.

## Culinary Traits

Hoh is a mild variety, slightly sweet with just a hint of cabbagey aftertaste. The cooked texture is soft. The color remains white when cooked.

## Agronomic Traits

Hoh plants are large, climbing up to 10 feet on trellis. The tubers sprout and emerge early in the spring. Hoh begins forming tubers almost a month earlier than most heirloom varieties and can produce a small but usable yield as early as August. It still needs a full growing season in order to produce a normal yield of full size tubers. Average tuber size is in the five to six inch range, but this variety produces tubers as much as 16 inches long. The tubers are also quite bulky. Hoh resists cracking in wet soil better than most of the large-tubered varieties. This is a fall flowering variety.

## What you will receive

### Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in plastic bag with damp peat.

### Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because mashua is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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### **Mashua information and growing instructions**

Ken Aslet is probably the best known of all mashua varieties outside the Andes, although as an ornamental, rather than an edible. It was reportedly discovered by its namesake at the Royal Horticultural Society garden at Wisley, UK as a volunteer seedling in the 1950s. It has been available in the US since at least 1978. This variety is more popular as an ornamental than as an edible, since most other varieties are much higher yielding and better flavored.

*The Ken Aslet strain circulating in the USA tests positive for several viruses, including Potato Virus S and Potato Virus Y, neither of which has been previously recognized to infect mashua. I am cleaning up this variety and it won't be available again until that is done. I don't recommend growing this variety from any available source, including us. I'm sorry for the inconvenience. Because these viruses were not*

*known to infect mashua, I never tested for them before 2018.*

## Culinary Traits

Ken Aslet is a pungent variety, with a raw flavor like horseradish pickled in cheap perfume. As usual, the cooked flavor is much more pleasant. Ken Aslet has a soft texture and a strong cabbagey flavor with a bit of bitter aftertaste. The flesh is light yellow and the color is retained when cooked.

## Agronomic Traits

Ken Aslet is often claimed to be a day neutral variety, but I would describe it more as an intermediate daylength variety. It does flower and form tubers earlier than most other mashua varieties, but that means late summer rather than early fall. If planted very early, in February or March, it will sometimes flower in spring, although it usually stops and then resumes in summer. It appears to initiate flowering at day lengths below 14 hours. Tuber size ranges from less than an inch to about nine inches, but most are in the two to four inch range. Yields are low, usually between one and two pounds.

Although the specifics of its origin are lost to history, based on its appearance, I imagine one parent was a Peruvian variety of the type that is called “tears of blood”. I also think it is likely that it resulted from a cross between two varieties, rather than a self-pollination, because the diversity of its progeny is much higher than most heirloom mashuas.

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### **Mashua information and growing instructions**

Lima is presumably a Peruvian heirloom variety, but I don't know anything else about it.

## Culinary Traits

Lima has a very nice flavor that is slightly sweet with a subtle caramel aftertaste. It has no cabbagey flavor at all. The flesh cooks soft and the yellow color is retained through cooking.

## Agronomic traits

Lima plants are fairly small, reaching about seven feet on trellis. Yields are modest, reaching three to four pounds. Tubers can grow as long as six inches, but most are in the two to four inch range. The tubers have good dormancy. Although it is a fall flowering variety, it is one of the earlier ones, starting here around mid-October.

# What you will receive

## Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in plastic bag with damp peat.

## Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because mashua is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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**This product is not currently available. This catalog page is for reference only.**

**Mashua information and growing instructions**

Orange is an excellent variety with good flavor, size, and yield. There are two claims on the origin of this variety, one that it comes from Ecuador and the other that it comes from Chile. I have serious doubts that Chile is a possibility, since mashua's range does not extend to Chile, but a Chilean origin would be much more interesting from the standpoint of a breeder. It might contain genetics more favorable to earlier tuberization coming from a region with longer day length. It may eventually be possible to sort this out with data from collections in South America, but it remains a mystery for now. This variety is also sold under the name 'Chilean Red'.

## Culinary Traits

Orange is mild and well-balanced, neither sweet nor cabbagey, but with a kind of richness that I can't quite describe. The cooked texture is soft. Most of the color is lost in cooking, although the flesh retains some yellow color.

## Agronomic Traits

Orange plants are large, reaching nine feet on trellis. The tubers have good dormancy. Yields are very good, reaching ten pounds or more from trellised plants. Tubers are large, in the three to six in range on average, but easily reaching a foot long. The tubers resist cracking in wet soil. This is a fall flowering variety and one of the last to flower most years, well into November.

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Mashua information and growing instructions

This is an OSSI open source variety. Click for more information about open source seeds.

Satsop is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2016. It is notable for large tuber size and mild flavor.

## Culinary Traits

Satsop is slightly sweet with no cabbagey flavor. The cooked texture is moderately firm.

## Agronomic Traits

Satsop plants are intermediate in size, reaching seven to eight feet on trellis. The yields are good, reaching up to eight pounds. Most tubers fall into the three to eight inch range. This variety is vulnerable to cracking in wet soil.

## What you will receive

### Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in plastic bag with damp peat.

### Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because mashua is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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Oca information and growing instructions

Bolivian Red is presumably a Bolivian heirloom variety, although I don't know any details about its origin. This variety is notable for its excellent, non-acidic flavor. Also sold under the name 'Rebo'.

## Culinary Traits

Bolivian Red slightly sweet but not tart, a combination that often reminds me of things like squash and sweet potato, although it doesn't really taste like either one. The cooked texture is soft. Although it loses some color with cooking, it does retain quite a bit of it and remains red. This is a very attractive variety for raw use. When sliced, you get red and yellow discs, which look great in salads.

## Agronomic Traits

Bolivian Red plants are intermediate in size and sprawl less than many of the larger varieties. Tubers are produced on stolons of intermediate length and usually do not crowd. Tuberization photoperiod is about 12 hours, the same as most heirloom varieties. Average yield is 1.2 pounds. The maximum tuber length is 4 inches and the average tuber length is 1.5 inches. Average tuber count is 36. There are about three times as many small tubers as large with this variety.

Bolivian Red is a moderate flowerer with a short-styled flower, flowering here from late June through August.

## What you will receive:

### Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in a wax envelope. We grade tubers by passing them through a grate. Small tubers are those that won't fall through a 1/3" grate, but that will fall through a 1 inch grate. Medium/large tubers are those that will not fall through a 1 inch grate.

### Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because oca is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

**Price:** \$6.50 - \$12.00

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Oca information and growing instructions

Frequently asked questions about oca seed

We classify true oca seeds as breeding seed; germination is not guaranteed

**Only Group 3 seed will be available this year, since we didn't grow any heirloom varieties.**

Oca is normally propagated vegetatively, by replanting tubers, which are clones. Probably because oca has been grown this way for hundreds or thousands of years, it is very difficult to get true, botanical seed, which is the key to breeding new varieties.

When you grow out true oca seed, you will get a brand new variety that you can maintain indefinitely by replanting the tubers. Plants that are propagated vegetatively are very appealing this way: if you get a plant that you like, you have a stable new variety that is all your own. Of course, we can't guarantee what you will get. Oca is an experimental crop in North America. You may get several excellent new varieties, or you may get weak and inferior varieties, or you may get nothing at all.

We produce three broad breeding mixes, that contain seeds from most of the varieties that we grow:

**Group 1** contains seed from only high yielding heirloom varieties. The genetic base is the narrowest of the three groups, but is probably the best mix for tuber size and yield. Germination for 2018 harvest seed for this group tested at 86% on Sep 29, 2018.

**Group 2** contains seed from all heirloom varieties plus varieties that we maintain as breeding lines but do not sell. This is the widest genetic base, but not as highly selected for size and yield. Germination for 2018 harvest seed for this group tested at 79% on Sep 18, 2018.

**Group 3** contains seed from our original varieties and varieties derived from them. This mix is the closest to our current breeding work. These seeds are OSSI open source, so if you decide to offer a variety grown from them, you must offer it under the OSSI pledge as well. Germination for 2018 harvest seed for this group tested at 81% on Sep 18, 2018.

Large seed packets contain 0.1 grams, which is about 300 seeds.

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### **Oca information and growing instructions**

Cherry Red is a New Zealand oca (or yam, as they call it) variety originally brought to the USA as a food import. It is notable for high yield and large average tuber size.



## Culinary Traits

Cherry Red is very reminiscent of potato, with firm, dry flesh and only very slight tartness. It cooks to a muted yellow/orange color.

## Agronomic Traits

Cherry Red plants are tall, with a large number of stems, and sprawling at maturity. The tubers are produced on long stolons, which helps to prevent crowding and ensure uniform tuber shapes. Tuberization photoperiod is about 12.5 hours, perhaps a week earlier than most heirloom varieties. It appears that it might be a mutation of Sunset, as it is very similar to that variety in every trait but skin color. While Sunset produces orange-skinned tubers, Cherry Red has red tubers, as you might expect. Occasionally, we find a tuber that has partially or completely mutated to orange skin, which prompted this speculation. Average yield is 2 pounds. Maximum tuber length is 4.8 inches and average tuber length is 3.3 inches, so this variety skews decidedly toward larger tubers. Average tuber count is 41.

Cherry Red is a low to moderate flowerer with a short styled flower, flowering here in July and August.

Nerd alert: Our original supplier mentioned that this variety has appeared in several Star Trek episodes as an alien vegetable and we finally spotted it in Star Trek Voyager in an episode called "The Voyager Conspiracy". Total screen time is less than a second, so you have to be watching closely to see it. There is a screenshot in the gallery.

## What you will receive

### Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in a wax envelope. We grade tubers by passing them through a grate. Small tubers are those that won't fall through a 1/3" grate, but that will fall through a 1 inch grate. Medium/large tubers are those that will not fall through a 1 inch grate.

### Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because oca is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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## Oca information and growing instructions

Golden is an heirloom variety from La Paz, Bolivia. It is notable for its unusually dark foliage.

### Culinary Traits

Golden lacks both sweetness and tartness, for a flavor that is very similar to potato. The cooked flesh is dry and moderately firm. The yellow color is retained well in cooking.

### Agronomic Traits

Golden plants are large and sprawling. The foliage is mottled with purple and is noticeably darker than other varieties in the field. Tubers are produced on stolons of intermediate length and are very uniform. Tuberation photoperiod is about 12 hours, the same as most heirloom varieties. Average yield is about one pound. The maximum tuber length is 4.1 inches and the average tuber length is 1.9 inches. Average tuber count is 27.

Golden is a moderate flowerer with a short-styled flower, flowering here from July through September.

### What you will receive

#### Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in a wax envelope. We grade tubers by passing them through a grate. Small tubers are those that won't fall through a 1/3" grate, but that will fall through a 1 inch grate. Medium/large tubers are those that will not fall through a 1 inch grate.

#### Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because oca is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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## Oca information and growing instructions

Hopin is by far the most common oca variety in the USA. For many years, when suppliers offered a single variety, you could be pretty sure that it was Hopin, but that is slowly starting to change. Hopin is notable for having reasonably good tolerance to warm weather and classic oca flavor.

## Culinary Traits

Hopin is moderately tart but not sweet, which fits the classic description of oca flavor: like a potato with sour cream or lemon. The cooked texture is soft. This variety loses most of its color with cooking, becoming light pink.

## Agronomic Traits

Hopin plants are large and sprawl at maturity. Tubers are produced on relatively short stolons and sometimes crowd, producing irregular shapes. Tuberization photoperiod is about 12 hours, the same as most heirloom varieties. Average yield is 1.6 pounds. Maximum tuber length is 5.2 inches and average tuber length is 1.6 inches. There are about twice as many small tubers as large tubers with this variety. This variety occasionally produces white mutants which can be propagated by replanting the tubers.

Hopin is an abundant flowerer with a mid-styled flower, flowering here from late June through August.

## What you will receive

### Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in a wax envelope. We grade tubers by passing them through a grate. Small tubers are those that won't fall through a 1/3" grate, but that will fall through a 1 inch grate. Medium/large tubers are those that will not fall through a 1 inch grate.

### Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because oca is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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Oca information and growing instructions

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Phytosanitary information

Hyak is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2016, notable for large average tuber size and dense flesh. Hyak's background includes a breeding line that was grown from true seed of a Bolivian variety that is not in our collection and I originally offered it as a source of unique genetics rather than as

a superior variety, but it has become popular due to its attractive appearance.

## Culinary Traits

Hyak has dense, firm flesh after cooking and a very slight tartness, just enough so that you would not mistake it for a potato. The raw appearance is very clean and neat with shiny white skin and red eyes. The flesh is also white. The average tuber size is large and the shape is uniform.

## Agronomic Traits

Hyak plants are moderate in height with a sprawling habit when mature. The tubers are produced on stolons of intermediate length and the tuber count is low, so the tubers are uncrowded and uniform. Tuberization photoperiod is about 12 hours, typical of most heirloom varieties. Average yield is 1.3 pounds. The maximum tuber length is 4.6 inches and the average tuber length is 3.3 inches. Average tuber count is 29. The plants produce a relatively small number of tubers, but most of them are large.

Hyak is a moderate flowerer with a mid-styled flower morph.

## What you will receive

### Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in a wax envelope. We grade tubers by passing them through a grate. Small tubers are those that won't fall through a 1/3" grate, but that will fall through a 1 inch grate. Medium/large tubers are those that will not fall through a 1 inch grate.

### Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because oca is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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### Oca information and growing instructions

You can also view these individual lines from the varieties section, where you can see photos of the cultivars. They are gathered together here so you don't have to click around as much.

Oca is normally propagated vegetatively, by replanting tubers, which are clones. Probably because oca

has been grown this way for hundreds or thousands of years, it is very difficult to get true, botanical seed, which is the key to breeding new varieties.

When you grow out true oca seed, you will get a brand new variety that you can maintain indefinitely by replanting the tubers. Plants that are propagated vegetatively are very appealing this way: if you get a plant that you like, you have a stable new variety that is all your own. Of course, we can't guarantee what you will get. Oca is an experimental crop in North America. You may get several excellent new varieties, or you may get weak and inferior varieties, or you may get nothing at all.

These seeds are collected from individual lines. They are open pollinated, so you know the mother variety (the plants that we collected the seeds from) but not the pollinators. We grow in rows, so in most cases the majority of the seeds will have been pollinated by the adjoining two varieties. In the case of mid-styled varieties, there will also probably be some self-pollinated seeds.

Most of these seeds are available only every third year at best. It is difficult to collect individual lines in sufficient quantity for sale. Prices vary depending on how difficult it is to collect the seeds.

Most people will probably find our broad breeding mixes of greater interest, as they provide more genetic diversity. These seeds may help you to select a variety similar to the parent more quickly.

## Oca Seed Frequently Asked Questions

Growing instructions for true oca seed

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Phytosanitary information

Longview is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2016, notable for excellent flavor and ability to flower in warmer conditions than most varieties.

## Culinary Traits

Longview is non-acidic variety with a rich, somewhat squash-like flavor. It lacks the tartness that is characteristic of most oca varieties. The yellow flesh is very soft when cooked and the tubers will disintegrate with long cooking times. Like most oca varieties, Longview does not retain much of its color

when cooked. The tubers are small side, but they are very nice roasted whole with a little olive oil.

## Agronomic Traits

Longview plants are moderate in height and relatively compact. The tubers are formed on stolons of intermediate length. Tuberization photoperiod is about 12 hours, the same as most of the heirloom varieties. Average yield is 1.1 pounds. The maximum tuber length is 3.5 inches and the average tuber length is 1 inch. Average tuber count is 26. Tubers are evenly distributed from small to large.

Longview is an abundant flowerer with a mid-styled flower morph. This variety flowered and set seed in the central valley of California, which is a climate where oca flowers are rarely seen. Because of that, it could serve as a foundation for growers wishing to breed better locally adapted varieties in warmer climates than oca normally tolerates.

## True Seeds

True seeds of Longview produce tubers mostly in yellow and orange and a smaller number of whites and reds. Even numbers of tubers with and without colored eyes. Mostly yellow or white flesh.

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Oca information and growing instructions
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Phytosanitary information

Mocrocks is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2015, notable for high yield, heat-stable color, and sweet/tart flavor.

## Culinary Traits

Mocrocks is tart and somewhat sweet, raw or cooked. You won't mistake this one for a potato. Raw, it has attractive, shiny, deep red skin and light yellow flesh with a red core. It can be sliced thinly for raw dishes, which will produce disks with contrasting red and yellow rings. Unlike most oca varieties, it retains most of its color when cooked, particularly under dry heat. Roasted Mocrocks tubers become dark purple and the flesh turns yellow/orange. This variety has very soft flesh when cooked.

## Agronomic Traits

Mocrocks plants are moderate in height, but robust and spreading, with a large number of stems at maturity. The tubers are produced on relatively short stolons and cluster densely beneath the plant. This has both advantages and disadvantages. The tubers are easy to harvest, but because they are closely packed, many will have irregular shapes. Tuberization photoperiod is about 13 hours, making it two to three weeks earlier than most of the heirloom varieties. Average yield is 2.3 pounds. The maximum tuber length is 4.9 inches, but the average tuber length is 2.1 inches. Average tuber count is 38. There are roughly equal numbers of large and small tubers with this variety.

Mocrocks is a moderate flowerer with a mid-styled flower, starting here in mid-June and usually wrapping up by the end of July.

## What you will receive

### Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in a wax envelope. We grade tubers by passing them through a grate. Small tubers are those that won't fall through a 1/3" grate, but that will fall through a 1 inch grate. Medium/large tubers are those that will not fall through a 1 inch grate.

### Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because oca is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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### Oca information and growing instructions

New Zealand Heirloom Red is an heirloom variety from New Zealand, as you may have deduced. It probably has another name, but that has been lost. This variety is also commonly sold under the names 'OAEC Pink' and 'Rosy Gems'.

## Culinary Traits

New Zealand Heirloom Red is non-sweet and slightly tart. The flesh is dry and very reminiscent of potato. It retains some of its pink color through cooking.

## Agronomic Traits

New Zealand Heirloom Red plants are relatively compact, with a large number of stems. They typically sprawl less than other varieties. Tubers are produced on stolons of intermediate length and are typically uniform. Tuberization photoperiod is about 12 hours, the same as most heirloom varieties. Average yield is 1.5 pounds. Maximum tuber size is 5.3 inches and average tuber size is 1.6 inches. Average tuber count is 19. There are about twice as many small tubers as large with this variety.

New Zealand Heirloom Red is a poor flowerer with a mid-styled flower, flowering here from late May through July.

## What you will receive

### Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in a wax envelope. We grade tubers by passing them through a grate. Small tubers are those that won't fall through a 1/3" grate, but that will fall through a 1 inch grate. Medium/large tubers are those that will not fall through a 1 inch grate.

### Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because oca is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

**Price:** \$6.50 - \$15.00

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### Oca information and growing instructions

Pascou is reportedly a Peruvian variety. It is also sold under the names 'Frank's Bicolor', 'Monster', 'OE Durazno', and probably others. *I do not recommend growing this variety if you obtained it from us before 2019, as it was carrying a virus. Tubers offered now have been cleaned and tested.*

## Culinary Traits

Pascou is slightly sweet and just barely tart before exposure, a combination that is a little bit squash-like. The cooked flesh is yellow, sometimes with a red center, moderately firm and retains the yellow color well through cooking.



## Agronomic Traits

Pascou plants are large and sprawling at maturity. Tubers are produced on long stolons and are typically uniform. Tuberization photoperiod is about 12 hours, like most heirloom varieties. Average yield is just about one pound. Maximum tuber length is 4.2 inches, although the tubers are quite bulky. Average tuber length is 2.4 inches. Average tuber count is 26. The numbers for this variety will need to be updated as they were collected before it was freed of virus. Yield has been better than what is currently stated. This variety can be a very impressive producer of large tubers if you have a long enough growing season. If you can grow frost-free until December, Pascou is a good choice. Where frost comes earlier, early varieties will size up faster and produce better.

Pascou is a moderate flowerer with a mid-styled flower, flowering here from late June through September.

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Oca information and growing instructions

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Phytosanitary information

Redshift is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2013. It is notable for heavy yield and excellent flowering.

## Culinary Traits

Refshift has no tartness or sweetness and tastes very much like potato. The cooked texture is soft. It loses much of its color when cooked, becoming pink or even white.

## Agronomic Traits

Redshift plants are among the largest of any variety that we grow, first becoming very tall and then sprawling. The tubers cluster under the base of the plant and may become crowded, producing irregular shapes. Tuberization photoperiod is about 12.5 hours, a week earlier than most heirloom varieties. Average yield is 1.8 pounds. Maximum tuber length is 5.2 inches and average tuber length is 1.6 inches. Average tuber count is 36. This variety produces about twice as many small tubers as large.

Redshift is an exceptional flowerer with a mid-styled flower, flowering here from June through October. It is consistently among the top three producers of true seed here, along with Siwash and Wishkah.

# What you will receive

## Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in a wax envelope. We grade tubers by passing them through a grate. Small tubers are those that won't fall through a 1/3" grate, but that will fall through a 1 inch grate. Medium/large tubers are those that will not fall through a 1 inch grate.

## Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because oca is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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Phytosanitary information

Siwash is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2017, notable for high yield, heat-stable color, and tart flavor.

## Culinary Traits

Siwash is a very tart oca that cooks to a soft consistency. If you want to taste an oca that is about as far from potato flavor as you can get, this would be a good choice. Raw, it has attractive, shiny, deep red skin and yellow flesh with a red core. It can be sliced thinly for raw dishes, which will produce disks with contrasting red and white rings. It retains much of its color when cooked, becoming a pink/purple color.

## Agronomic Traits

Siwash plants are tall and spreading, sprawling at maturity. Tubers are produced on short stolons and crowd together, often resulting in irregular shapes. Tuberization photoperiod is about 12.5 hours, roughly a week earlier than most heirloom varieties. Average yield is 2.2 pounds. The maximum tuber length is 4.7 inches and the average tuber length is 1.9 inches. Average tuber count is 38. There are roughly equal numbers of large and small tubers with this variety.

Siwash is a heavy flowerer with a short-styled flower, flowering here July through September. It is

consistently among the top three producers of true seed here, along with Redshift and Wishkah.

## What you will receive

### Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in a wax envelope. We grade tubers by passing them through a grate. Small tubers are those that won't fall through a 1/3" grate, but that will fall through a 1 inch grate. Medium/large tubers are those that will not fall through a 1 inch grate.

### Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because oca is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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Phytosanitary information

Sockeye is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2015, notable for relatively early tuberization and high yield.

A colorless sport of this variety, called White Salmon, is also available.

## Culinary Traits

Sockeye is a moderately tart variety, with what we might call the classic oca flavor, something like a potato with lemon or sour cream. Raw, it has attractive, shiny, red skin and light yellow flesh with a red core. It can be sliced thinly for raw dishes, which will produce disks with contrasting red and yellow rings. Cooked, the texture is very soft and the tuber will disintegrate with long cooking time. Like most oca varieties, Sockeye loses most of its color when cooked, usually becoming light pink.

## Agronomic Traits

Sockeye plants are tall, with a large number of stems, and sprawling at maturity. The tubers are produced on relatively short stolons and cluster densely beneath the plant. This has both advantages and

disadvantages. The tubers are easy to harvest, but because they are closely packed, many will have irregular shapes. Tuberization photoperiod is about 13 hours, making it two to three weeks earlier than most of the heirloom varieties. Average yield is 2.2 pounds. The maximum tuber length is 5.2 inches and the average tuber length is 2 inches. Average tuber count is 34. The distribution of tubers ranges pretty evenly from small to large.

Sockeye is a fairly poor mid-styled flowerer, flowering from late June to September here.

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Phytosanitary information

White Salmon is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2018. It is a sport (somatic mutant) of Sockeye that has lost all red color. This is a reversible mutation, so you will occasionally see White Salmon tubers with red stripes or sectors. My best guess is that this is an example of transposon activity. Other than color and flavor, it is identical to Sockeye, which makes it the best of the white varieties that I offer. Because there is not much demand for whiteocas, I don't grow much of this variety and it is not available every year.

## Culinary Traits

White Salmon is a sweet variety with little to no tartness. The color is white inside and out, becoming light yellow with exposure. Cooked, the texture is soft and the tuber will disintegrate with long cooking time.

## Agronomic Traits

White Salmon plants are tall, with a large number of stems, and sprawling at maturity. The tubers are produced on relatively short stolons and cluster densely beneath the plant. This has both advantages and disadvantages. The tubers are easy to harvest, but because they are closely packed, many will have irregular shapes. Tuberization photoperiod is about 13 hours, making it two to three weeks earlier than most of the heirloom varieties. Average yield is 2.2 pounds. The maximum tuber length is 5.2 inches and the average tuber length is 2 inches. Average tuber count is 34. The distribution of tubers ranges pretty evenly from small to large.

White Salmon is a fairly poor mid-styled flowerer, flowering from late June to September here.

**Price:** \$7.50 - \$9.00

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Phytosanitary information

Wishkah is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2015, notable for high yield and large average tuber size.

## Culinary Traits

Wishkah is a mildly acidic variety, just tart enough so that you wouldn't mistake it for a potato, but not so much that it won't serve in just about any potato recipe. It is very slightly sweet and the yellow flesh is moderately firm even when cooked. Like most oca varieties, it loses most of its color when cooked.

## Agronomic Traits

Wishkah plants are tall, with a large number of stems, and sprawling at maturity. The tubers are formed on long stolons, which helps to prevent crowding and increases uniformity. Tuberization photoperiod is about 13 hours, making it two to three weeks earlier than most of the heirloom varieties. Average yield is 2.5 pounds. The maximum tuber length is 6.4 inches and the average tuber length is 2.9 inches. Average tuber count is 22. Wishkah typically produces both the highest yields and largest tubers of any variety that we grow.

Wishkah is a heavy flowerer with a mid-styled flower. It is consistently among the top three producers of true seed here, along with Redshift and Siwash.

## True Seeds

True seeds were collected in 2020 and were open pollinated. Wishkah is mid-styled and therefore self-compatible, so I expect a portion of the seeds to be self-pollinated, but the majority will probably be crossed. The closest neighbors in 2020 were Sockeye and Adele, both of which are compatible and would be the most likely partners. From experience, I expect true seed of Wishkah to give a greater percentage of early varieties with larger tubers than most other varieties. Plants will mostly be large. Tuber color is not predictable. I only offer oca see that germinates at 80% or better in my tests, but some people still report no germination because oca is tricky. So, set your expectations low and hopefully you will be happily surprised.

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