

Late blight population in Switzerland: current picture, future plans

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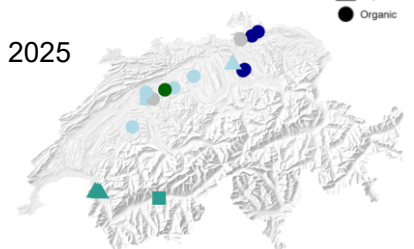
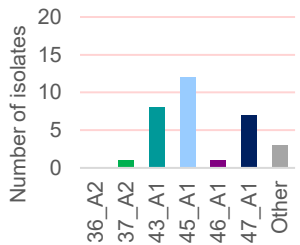
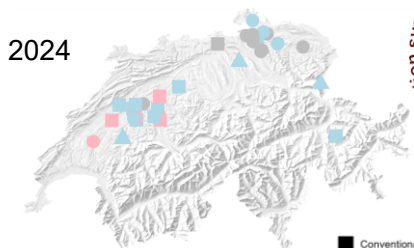
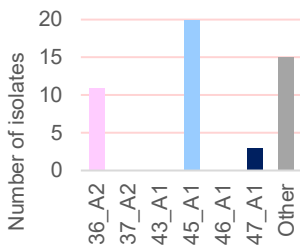
Building a more sustainable potato sector in Switzerland

Late blight management in Switzerland requires 6–7 fungicide applications per season on average, making potatoes the country’s most fungicide-intensive arable crop. In 2017, the Swiss government adopted the Plant Protection Action Plan, which aims to reduce risks associated with plant protection products by 50% by 2027. In 2024, the Swiss potato sector committed to supporting this transition by increasing the share of late-blight-tolerant varieties to 25% of the national area by 2028 and 80% by 2040. Achieving these ambitions will require stronger, more adaptive late blight management, and therefore a new national project has been launched.

WHAT DO WE KNOW AND WHAT DO WE NEED TO INVESTIGATE?

PREVIOUSLY ON FTA CARDS

Small scale monitoring efforts in 2024 and 2025 spanning the main production regions

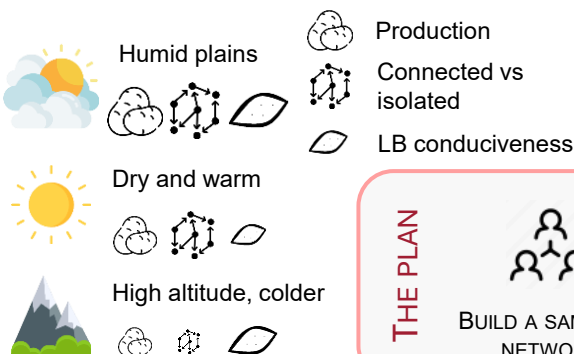


These mainly showed:

- EU45 makes up 40 % of samples
- EU47 increased from 2024 to 2025
- First report of EU43 in 2025
- Others present in Eastern cantons

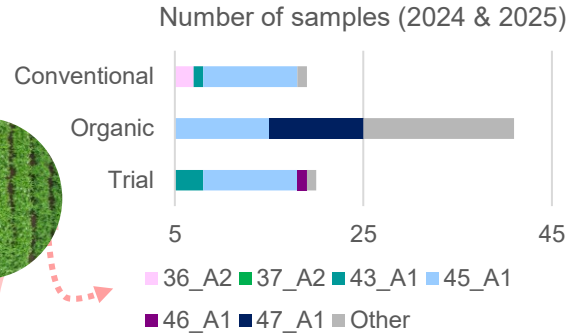
MOUNTAINS + PLAINS

= climatic diversity + natural barriers



SWISS POTATO PRODUCTION

11000 ha
3750 potato growers
10 % organic



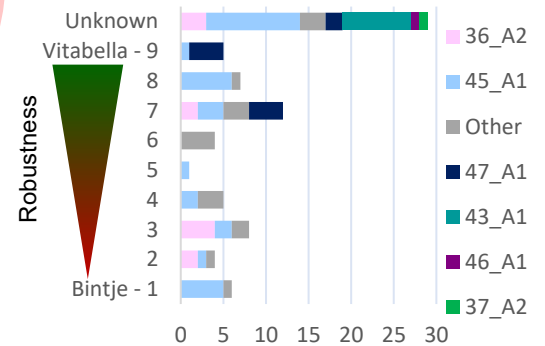
EU47 was only sampled in organic samples, which are overrepresented.



Varieties

SWISS POTATO VARIETY LIST

72 varieties
20 are robust
= between 15-20 % surface



The structure and dynamics of the Swiss *P. infestans* population are currently poorly understood. Yet the appearance of different new phenotypes such as EU43 and EU47 poses risks to both fungicides and robust varieties. This project aims at understanding population dynamics to improve disease management strategies.

THE PLAN



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