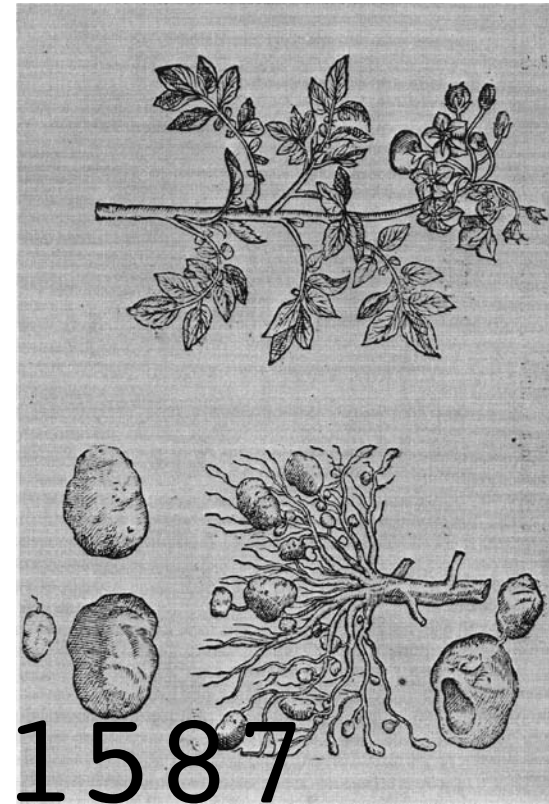


The Order Of Potatoes

A Potato Perspective on a European Matter



By Åsa Sonjasdotter, 2009
 Installation view from Den Frie Udstillingsbygning, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2009
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 Paperbags printed by Albdruck, Berlin



In its original home, in the Andes and Chile, the potato has been under cultivation for well over a thousand years. It reached Europe only in the latter half of the 16th century. Records indicate that it was in 1587 that Clusius in Vienna received some tubers via Spain. At first, the potato did not excite much attention and was cultivated more as a curiosity or a novelty rather than a staple food plant. For more than a century royal edicts and ordinances were required encourage its use. By the later part of the 18th century, however, the potato achieved recognition as a crop of great commercial importance.

Text: Potato in India, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Dehli. 1964.
 Image: Clusius' illustration of the potato published in *Rariorum Plantarum Historia*, 1601.
www.potatoperspective.org

Origin or earliest documented:

Origin unknown

Grown for centuries in Austria

Legal status:

Traditional heirloom variety

Not registered on a National Variety List

Commercial distribution: Not permitted

Characteristics:

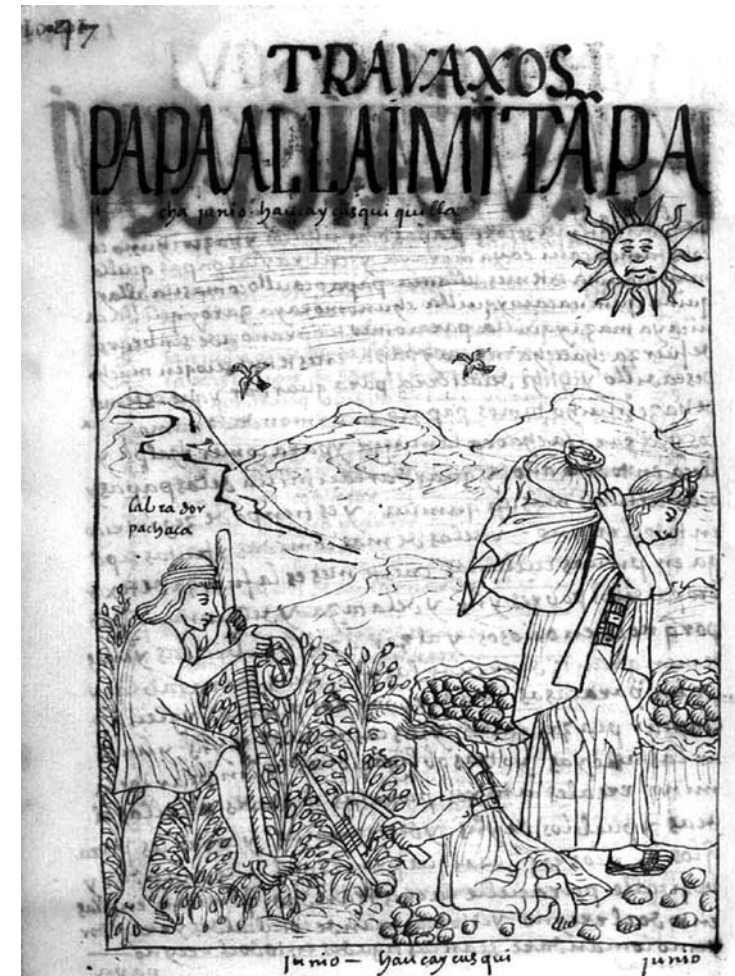
Light yellow skin, yellow flesh, round and oval tubers. Very high dry matter content and has a firm texture when cooked. Mid to late harvest.

Other:

Strong, creamy taste. Suitable for salad, mashing and for baking.



Mehlige Mühlviertler



1600

Potato harvesting with foot-plough and hoe, June.

Illustration from Guaman Poma de Ayala's illustrated chronicle "Nueva Corónica y Buen Gobierno", Peru.

www.potatoperspective.org

Origin or earliest documented:
Bolivia, South America

Legal status:
South American traditional heirloom variety
Not registered at a National Variety List
Commercial distribution: Not permitted

Characteristics:
Round or oval tubers. Skin and flesh is dark blue/mauve. The potato has high dry matter and fries and mashes well but does not boil well because it is fluffy and disintegrates. It is sensitive to scurf and needs quite a lot of water when growing.

Other:
Other names are Blaue Schweden, Idaho Blue, Blue Congo.



Congo



1615

Conquista Milagro del Santiago.

Illustration from Guaman Poma de Ayala's illustrated chronicle "Nueva Coronica y Buen Gobierno", Peru.

www.potatoperspective.org

Origin or earliest documented:
The Andes, South America

Legal Satus:
Not registered on a National Variety List

Characteristics:
Semi-wild species

Other:
In the valley of Ajawiri Marka, Western Bolivia, abundant weedy and cultivated forms of *Solanum ajunhuiri* grow in close association. The farming practices of Aymara subsistence cultivators facilitate recombination between wild and cultivated gene pools. Farmers maintain potato varieties and distinguish various cultivars, varying from 10 to 32 cultivars per household. In general, Altiplano farmers are disposed to experiment with new varieties, which are grown for two years and evaluated for survivability, yield and culinary quality and then either accepted or discarded.

Johns, T. & S. L. Keen, 1986, 'On-going evolution of the potato on the Antiplano of Western Bolivia'. *Economic Botany* 40 (4): 409-424.



Solanum Ajunhuirii



From 1700s

Farmers bred the Andean potatoes arriving in Europe into varieties suiting the variable microclimates throughout the continent.
www.potatoperspective.org

Origin or earliest documented:

First mentioned in the 1879 "landbrugsordbogen"

Legal status:

Traditional heirloom variety

Not registered on a National Variety List

Commercial distribution: Not permitted

Characteristics:

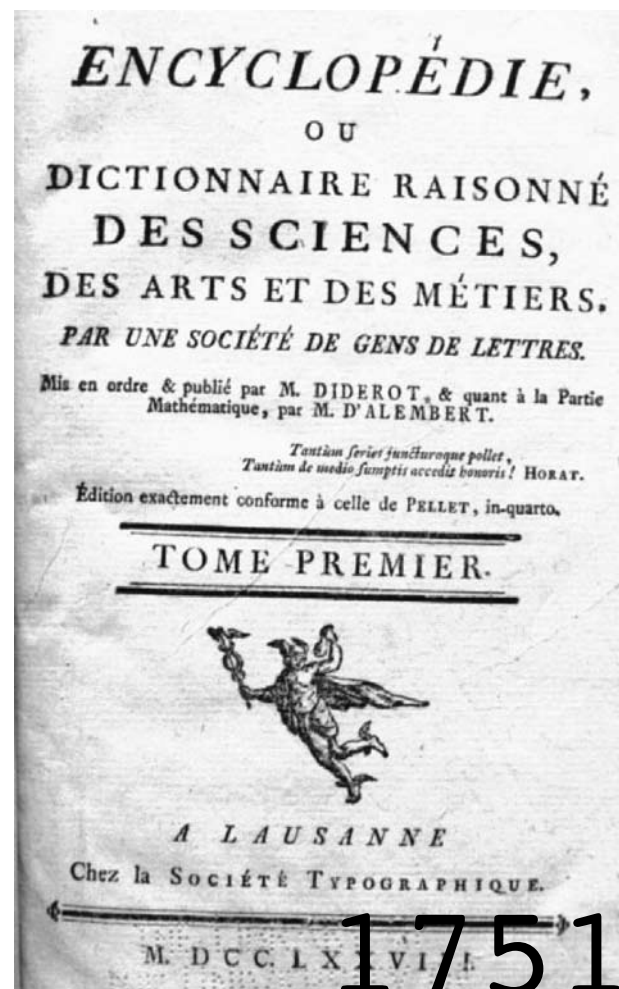
The tubers are small and round with deep eyes. The skin colour is yellow, the flesh is pale yellow to yellow. Very susceptible to late blight and virus diseases, but very resistant to spraying. Has a high dry matter content and has a firm texture when cooked. Widely regarded as having a good flavour.

Other:

When Denmark entered EU 1973, no one was interested in registering Æggeblomme on a National Variety List and it was erased from the market.



Æggeblomme



However it is prepared, this root is tasteless and starchy. One would not include it among the agreeable foods, but it does provide plentiful and sufficiently healthful nourishment for men who do not require more than sustenance. The potato is correctly held for flatulence; but what is flatulence to the vigorous digestions of peasants and workers?

Denis Diderot and Jean le Rond d'Alembert in L'Encyclopédie
www.potatoperspective.org

Origin or earliest documented:

Central Europe, 1850s

Legal status:

Traditional heirloom variety

Not registered on a National Variety List

Commercial distribution: Not permitted

Characteristics:

Long irregularly growing tubers with pink skin and light yellow flesh. Considered a delicacy, it is excellent for salad and can preferably be eaten with the skin on. Remarkably long cultivating period with a relatively small yield. Can be stored for long time.

Other:

Rosa Tannenzapfen is one of the oldest varieties documented in Europe. Its origin is unknown, but it has been cultivated in various European countries since at least 1850.



Rosa Tannenzapfen



Late 1700s

With the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, demand for cheap food increased sharply in Europe. Factory owners wanted an economical means of feeding their workers while retaining their workers' productivity. The potato was the perfect remedy and came into increasing demand, since it contains considerable food energy, gives a high yield and yet is very easy to cultivate.

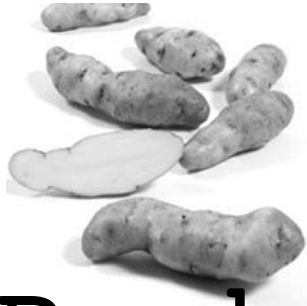
www.potatoperspective.org

Origin or earliest documented:
Bavaria, Germany

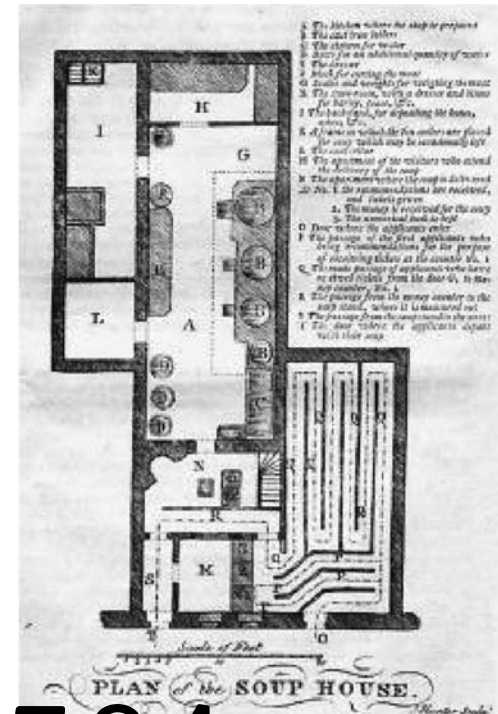
Legal status:
Traditional heirloom variety
Not registered on a National Variety List
Commercial distribution: Not permitted

Characteristics:
Yellow to pink skin, yellow flesh, crescent shaped tubers.
Late to ripe, robust in cultivation. Excellent taste.

Other:
One of the oldest varieties documented in Europe.



Bamberger Hörnchen



1784

Benjamin Thompson, better known as Count Rumford, an American scientist, inventor, soldier and adventurer, entered the service of the Royal Bavarian government to reorganize the workhouse system. The inmates of these "Houses of Industry" were fed as economically as possible on bread and thin gruel. Rumford contrived to make the gruel incredibly cheap by substituting potatoes for the barley being used. Rumford's soups became famous throughout Europe. In London, as many as sixty thousand people were fed daily from Rumford's soup kitchens.

www.potatoperspective.org

Origin or earliest documented:

Great Britain, 1936

Legal status:

Breeder unknown

Not registered at a National Variety List

Commercial distribution: Not permitted

Characteristics:

Oval to long oval tubers, burgundy red inside with a definite ring of white flesh just under the skin and with a dull russet layer over a bright burgundy skin.

Other:

This variety dates back to at least 1936 when, according to records, it was used to add appropriate colour to a meal for the Duke of Burgundy in the Savoy.



Highland Burgundy



1841 – 1910

King Edward VII of the United Kingdom
www.potatopersepective.org

Origin or earliest documented:

UK, late 1900s

Legal status:

Breeder unknown

Registered on National Variety Lists in Ireland and the UK

Commercial distribution: Permitted

Characteristics:

The tubers are oval to long oval, small with shallow eyes. The skin is white with pink colouration, cream to pale yellow flesh with a floury texture. Historically popular variety with a delicious taste.

Other:

Because of its sensitivity to diseases, it is rarely cultivated by commercial growers.



King Edward



1927

The denotation 'original' was introduced in Swedish seed control. The director of the Swedish Seed Testing Authority was the one to decide which varieties qualified for the title.

Text and image: Purification Laboratory, Germination Laboratory, 1926, Bergshamra, Sweden.
www.potatoperspective.org

Origin or earliest documented:

Bred by D.Mackelvie, Isle of Arran, Scotland, 1918

Legal status:

Registered on a National Variety List

Commercial distribution: Permitted

Characteristics:

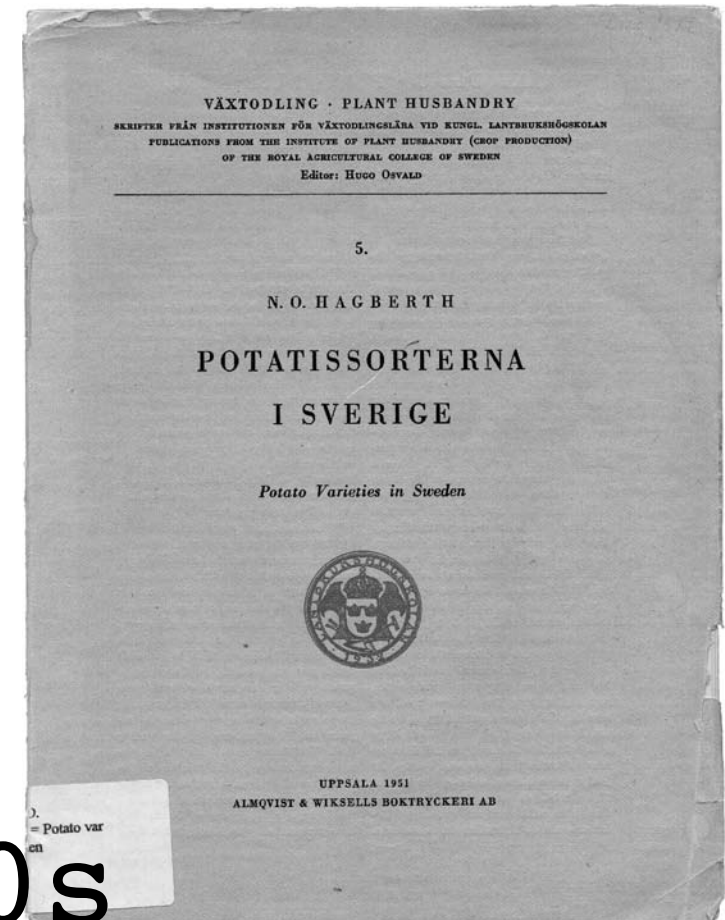
The tubers are round to short oval with blue skin, snowy white flesh and deep eyes. Has a very high dry matter content which makes normal boiling difficult but has exceptional flavour for mashing. Arran Victory potatoes need to be simmered gently. They make particularly good roast potatoes. Arran Victory is high yielding given a long season.

Other:

Victory, the oldest of the "Arrans" still grown, was named in 1918 in celebration of the ending of the First World War. It is rare and is one of only two blue skinned varieties still available for general cultivation.



Arran Victory



1940s

An inventory of all potato varieties grown in Sweden was made at the Royal Agricultural College. One sample from every fifteen hectare potato field; 10 682 samples were collected. They were all grown and identified. 118 known varieties were found, a further 102 varieties could not be identified. The aim was to increase the efficiency of potato farming and to develop efficient varieties. Most of the old traditional varieties were excluded and many have disappeared.

www.potatoperspective.org

Origin or earliest documented:

Origin unknown
Grown for centuries in Northern Scandinavia

Legal status:

Traditional heirloom variety
Not registered on a National Variety List
Commercial distribution: Not permitted

Characteristics:

Tubers are long and oval. Flesh is light yellow but can in rare cases come in blue shades. Has excellent taste and is an important ingredient in various traditional Scandinavian dishes.

Other:

Due to its sensitivity to diseases the variety grows especially well in the Nordic climate zone where diseases are less likely to develop.



Norrländsk Mandel



1950s

Bintje was the first European variety bred for industrial farming.
www.potatoperspective.org

Origin or earliest documented:

Bred 1904 in the Netherlands by K.L. de Vries

Legal status:

Registered on a National Variety List

Commercial distribution: Permitted

Characteristics:

Tubers are large, regular, long, oval, thick. Smooth pale yellow skin, shallow eyes and light yellow flesh. On exposure to light, tubers become green with dark purple spots around the eyes. Good for boiling, baking, french frying and chipping. High yielding, widely adapted.

Other:

Was for some years banned in the Netherlands due to its high pesticide requirements.



Bintje

Procedure for Application for Addition to the Official List of Varieties in Denmark

Application must be made on application forms obtainable at

Plantedirektoratet
Afd. for Sortsafprøvning
Teglværksvej 10, Tystofte
DK-4230 Skælskør
Tel.: +45 5816 0600
Fax: +45 5816 0606

Only the original forms can be used for applications which are to be sent to the above address together with a technical questionnaire (TQ) in 2 copies. Applicants domiciled abroad must send in applications through a representative domiciled in Denmark. The representative may be a person, a firm or a patent agency. The representative is stated under item 2 (Dansk repræsentant) and has to sign the form before sending it to Afdeling for Sortsafprøvning. If the application is made through a representative, all correspondence will be effected through him as well as collection of fees. This also applies to information about the examination of the variety. Information on closing dates for application and submission of seed for trial is stated every year in "Meddelelser fra Sortsafprøvningen / Danish Gazette for Plant Varieties" No. 11, published on November 1th.

Translation of Application form

Application for testing of a variety according to the rules laid down for testing of varieties of agriculture cultivars, turf grasses and vegetables for addition to the variety list.

1. Applicant: Name and address

2. Danish representative: Name and address

3. Species and use

4. Breeders reference Name proposal (if any)

5. Origin of the variety Is the origin confidential? (Are we allowed to publish it?) Yes/No

6. Is the variety on variety list in other countries? Yes [] No []
Country: Date: Variety Name:

7. Has the variety been applied for testing in other countries: Yes [] No []
Country: Date: Breeders reference / Name:

8. Other information

9. Application for DUS - test [] tick here
VCU - test [] tick here

Date: Signature:

1964

The Common Agricultural Policy was implemented and the respective series of Common Market Organisations were introduced.

<http://www.euroseeds.org/who-we-are>, www.potatoperspective.org

Origin or earliest documented:

Denmark, 1879

Legal status:

Traditional heirloom variety

Registered for legal distribution on a National Variety

List in Denmark by The Special Committee for Potatoes

Commercial distribution: Permitted

Characteristics:

Long tubers with white skin and yellow flesh. The flavour is excellent, sometimes described as "nutty". Can be cooked whole with skins on and used as a salad or boiling potato, hot or cold, sliced or diced.

Other:

Asperges is a very popular and important part of traditional Danish food culture, but is not suitable for industrial agriculture methods. When Denmark entered EU in 1973 and had to follow the EU regulation of registration on the National Variety List, no commercial producer wanted to register this old variety. The organisation The Special Committee for Potatoes (Specialudvalget for kartofler) decided to pay the fee (ca 900 €), to prevent its disappearance from the market. The Special Committee for Potatoes continues to pay the fee yearly.



Asperges



NORDIC GENE BANK

MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT

The Nordic Gene Bank (NGB) holds material of plant genetic resources under common Nordic management and control.

The NGB is making the material described in the attached list available as part of its policy to ensure facilitated access and exchange of all its plant genetic resources for conservation, research and any other utilisation purposes.

The material is held in trust under the terms of this agreement, and the recipient has no right to obtain Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) on the material or related information.

The recipient may utilise the material for the purposes stated above.

The recipient, therefore, hereby agrees not to claim ownership over the material, nor to seek IPRs over that material, or its genetic parts and components, in the form received. The recipient also agrees not to seek IPRs over related information received.

The recipient further agrees not to distribute the material to third party.

The NGB makes no warranties as to the accuracy of passport or other data provided with it. Neither does it make any warranties as to the quality, phytosanitary conditions, viability, or purity (genetic or mechanical) of the material being furnished. Recipients assume full responsibility for complying with the recipient nation's quarantine and biosafety regulations and rules as to import or release of genetic material.

The recipient hereby agrees to furnish the NGB with relevant data and information collected during evaluation and utilisation.

The material is supplied expressly conditional on acceptance of the terms of this Agreement. The recipient's acceptance of the material constitutes acceptance of the terms of this Agreement.

1979

The Nordic Gene Bank was established.
www.potatoperspective.org

At present the potato collection consists of 64 unique varieties, breeding clones and landraces (local strains). Descriptions and images on each of the accession can be found in our database (www.nordgen.org). Sheets with further descriptions of some of the most popular potatoes can also be downloaded.

To order potatoes, download the order form and send it or mail it to us. We only send a few tubers, and priority is given to breeding, research and demonstration purposes. But we also distribute to private persons.

There is no distribution to third parties without a signed SMTA agreement, and also no distribution to third parties without fulfilment of the national seed potato regulations.

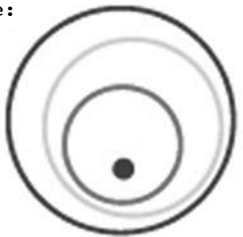
Address:
NORDGEN
Smedjevägen 3
Box 41
SE-230 53 ALNARP
SWEDEN
telephone: +46 40 53 66 40
telefax: +46 40 53 66 50
e-mail: svein.solberg@nordgen.org

Orderer:

Date:

Name:

Address:



NordGen Varieties

**The Europlant Pflanzenzucht GmbH is
your competent partner for the
cultivation of potato**

Our varieties for your success

2009

www.europlant-potato.de
www.potatoperspective.org

Origin or earliest documented:

Bred 1974 by Europlant, Germany

Legal status:

Not registered for legal distribution on a National Variety List. Europlant assigned the rights (PBR) to maintain and collect royalties from the marketing for 30 years in 1974. The variety was removed from Europlant's collection one month prior to the expiration of the royalty period.

Characteristics:

Oval with yellow meat and yellow skin.

High resistance to diseases and popular among organic farmers.

Other:

One month prior to the expiration of the PBR certificate in December 2004, Europlant ceased maintenance of the variety, even though its registration on the national list was valid until 2009. This meant that no one else could take over maintenance of the variety, leaving Europlant with the only rights for production. The move was constructed in such a way that Linda was de-listed. Farmers have generated a lot of coverage in media protesting against the de-listing. At the last minute (the deadline was the 30 June 2005), the German authorities gave Linda a two-year extension on its use. But thereafter Linda may be de-registered and forbidden to cultivate. German potato farmer Karsten Ellenberg has applied for registration on National Variety Lists in Scotland, Hungary and in the Netherlands. If the variety is listed, distribution within EU without request for royalties from the breeder will be legal.

"Seed laws in Europe: locking farmers out" by Guy Kastler, www.grain.org



Linda





