

CARBOHYDRATE



FACT CHECK



Q. DO IDAHO® POTATOES CONTAIN HEALTHY CARBOHYDRATES?

A. Yes. Idaho® potatoes are an excellent source of complex carbohydrates for optimum health.

FACTS

A medium, 5.3-ounce Idaho® potato with the skin on contains 26 grams of carbohydrates.

The predominant carbohydrate in potatoes is starch, which is considered a complex carbohydrate.¹

Carbohydrate is the primary fuel for your brain and a key source of energy for muscles. It is important for optimal physical and mental performance.²

Because of their high carb content, potatoes are often categorized with grains like rice, pasta and bread, but they are officially vegetables, as classified by both the USDA's MyPlate guidelines and the "2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines" for Americans, which is jointly published by the USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.³

Potatoes are an excellent source of vitamin C (30% of the daily value), a good source of vitamin B₆ (10% of the daily value) and a good source of potassium (15% of the daily value). They are also fat-, cholesterol- and sodium-free and contribute 7% of the daily value of fiber.

Currently, American consumption of all vegetables—including "starchy" vegetables—is about 80% below the intake levels recommended in the most recent (2015-2020) Dietary Guidelines for Americans.³



REFERENCES

1. Woolfe JA. *The Potato in the Human Diet*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1987, pp10.2.
2. "Nutrition and Athletic Performance." Position of the Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics, American College of Sports Medicine and the Dietitians of Canada. *Med Sci Sports Exercise*. 2015;48:543-568.3.
3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture. "2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans." 8th Edition. December 2015. Available at www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2015/guidelines.