

Mother-in-law Potato

During his visit to the Canadian Horticultural Council meeting, agriculture minister Gerry Ritz told fruit and vegetable farmers about visiting South America, where producers grow 3,700 potato varieties.

One of them is the mother-in-law potato.

It is ugly and knobby but that is not why it got its name, Ritz said.

Instead, the local tradition is that when a suitor comes to dinner as part of his campaign to win a bride and impress her family, the potential mother-in-law cooks dinner.

If she peels the potato and all its contours, it means she approves of the potential son-in-law. If she cuts corners and simply slices the knobs off the potato, the suitor is not acceptable.