

## Potato shortage causes 'chipocalypse'

19th October, 2017



Potato chip lovers in New Zealand could be in for a big shock. New Zealand is facing a possible potato shortage in the next few months. This means there could be a lack of potato chips (crisps in British English) until next

year. Newspapers are calling this situation the "chipocalypse". They combined the words "chip" and "apocalypse" to make this new word. A possible chipocalypse is because of a very wet winter in New Zealand. This has hit potato growers. In some areas, a third of the potato crop has been lost. The wet weather has particularly hit the potatoes that are used to make potato chips. This means makers will make fewer potato chips and prices for potato chips will be higher.

A spokesman for New Zealand potato farmers told the Radio Live NZ news station about the problem. Chris Claridge, head of Potatoes New Zealand, said: "It started raining in March, and it just simply hasn't stopped. We've had the entire year's worth of rainfall already, so the rainfall is 25 per cent above average and while that might not sound like a lot what it means is it's continuous, so the soils never get a chance to dry out." He added: "Potatoes are actually alive. They need to breathe, and so effectively they drown, and then they start to rot because they're submerged in water." A major supermarket chain said: "We are working closely with our suppliers to manage supply as much as possible."

Sources: [radionz.co.nz](http://radionz.co.nz) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [nzherald.co.nz](http://nzherald.co.nz)

## Writing

Potato chips are the world's best snacks. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

potato chips / lovers / big shock / shortage / apocalypse / wet winter / weather / news station / raining / average / soil / breathe / drown / supermarket / supplier

## True / False

- Potato lovers in New Zealand will be without potato chips for years. T / F
- The "chipocalypse" is because of a potato-eating insect. T / F
- More than a third of all of New Zealand's potatoes have been lost. T / F
- Potato crisps will be more expensive in New Zealand. T / F
- A potato spokesman said it had been raining non-stop since March. T / F
- Rainfall in New Zealand is 25% above average. T / F
- The spokesman said the potatoes have had a chance to dry out. T / F
- The spokesperson said potatoes are alive and need to breathe. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>shock</b>        | a. representative |
| 2. <b>possible</b>     | b. joined         |
| 3. <b>lack</b>         | c. big            |
| 4. <b>combined</b>     | d. potential      |
| 5. <b>particularly</b> | e. normal         |
| 6. <b>spokesman</b>    | f. especially     |
| 7. <b>entire</b>       | g. surprise       |
| 8. <b>average</b>      | h. endless        |
| 9. <b>continuous</b>   | i. whole          |
| 10. <b>major</b>       | j. shortage       |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What problems do you think potato farmers have?
- Would you like to be a farmer?
- What do you know about potatoes?
- What's your favourite potato chip flavor?
- What new potato chip flavors would you like?
- How can New Zealanders get more potato chips?
- What questions would you like to ask the potato farmers?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. chip lovers in New Zealand could be         | a. will be higher          |
| 2. New Zealand is facing a possible potato     | b. of the potato crop      |
| 3. They combined the words                     | c. average                 |
| 4. a third                                     | d. shortage                |
| 5. prices for potato chips                     | e. in water                |
| 6. We've had the entire year's worth           | f. our suppliers           |
| 7. above                                       | g. in for a big shock      |
| 8. They need                                   | h. of rainfall already     |
| 9. they start to rot because they're submerged | i. to breathe              |
| 10. We are working closely with                | j. "chip" and "apocalypse" |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of potato chips?
- How would you feel if there were no potato chips?
- What do you think of the word 'chipocalypse'?
- How important are potatoes?
- What is your favourite snack food?
- Where and when do you eat potato chips?
- Would you pay higher prices for potato chips?
- What do you think a farmer's life is like?

## Spelling

- facing a possible potato hsgetoar
- calling this ntsatiuo the "chipocalypse"
- They cbnidmeo the words
- wet weather has iycurpratal hit the potatoes
- make efrew potato chips
- rcspei for potato chips
- the entire year's owhtr of rainfall
- 25 per cent above veegraa
- never get a canech to dry out
- They need to ahetreb
- A ojram supermarket chain
- manage pylusp as much as possible

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. f
6. a	7. i	8. e	9. h	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – Potato Chips

You think potato chips are the best snack. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their snacks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): samosa, raisins or peanuts.

### Role B – Samosa

You think samosa are the best snack. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their snacks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): potato chips, raisins or peanuts.

### Role C – Raisins

You think raisins are the best snack. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their snacks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): samosa, potato chips or peanuts.

### Role D – Peanuts

You think peanuts are the best snack. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their snacks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): samosa, raisins or potato chips.

## Speaking – Snacks

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| • donut / doughnut | • popcorn |
| • sandwich         | • peanuts |
| • jerky            | • samosa  |
| • potato chips     | • raisins |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.