

manager, is the winner. They have a true potato taste, and the texture is perfect."

Also on our testing couch: Robert Armstrong, 38, a cartoonist and illustrator; his wife Patty Graves, 41, a typesetter and graphic artist; Bill Cavins, 42, an electrical contractor and husband to Phyllis Beals; R.K. "Bob" Lee, 43, a house-

"This oil is definitely different from the rest," said Cavins of Grandma Utz.

But in the end neither the names of the potatoes nor what they were cooked in altered that one basic truth: You can't eat just one.

By Pamela Brown

Frito-Lay
Crunch Tators
Cost: 7 oz./\$1.39

4.8

Good potato flavor, but a little too strong. Too greasy and a bit too much salt.

Zapp's
Cost: 7 oz./\$1.39

3.8

Very bland; almost no potato taste. Almost too crisp and much too greasy.

And now, for the critical test: How to keep chips out of the dip

Right up there on the list of Very Annoying Things are chips that break off in the dip. After all, who wants to fish through a bowl of clam or onion dip to retrieve the soggy remnants?

So we did a separate rating on our chips. Of course, taste and texture are two important considerations (see box on this page). But how do these 12 super-crunchy brands of chips hold up under a generous glob of onion dip? That's the real test.

The winner in the "dipability" category: Frito-Lay's Crunch Tators. They led the pack with a 9.3 (on a scale of 1 to 10).

"This sucker is strong," declared Bob Lee as he chomped into a Crunch Tator.

All of the super-crunchy kettle chips were given high scores in this category. In fact, none scored lower than a 7.2.

Here's how they stacked up: Bob's Texas Style, 8.6; Borden Krunchers, 8.6; Cape Cod, 8.5; The Maui Chips, 8.5; Country Made, 8.3; Home-Town, 8.1; Eagle Snacks Hawaiian Kettle, 8.1; Eagle Snacks Idaho Russet, 8.1; Grandma Utz, 8.0; Zapp's, 7.8; Arizona Select, 7.2.



OUR TESTERS: From left to right, R.K. "Bob" Lee, Phyllis Beals, "Head Spud" Robert Armstrong, Alice Adece, Patty Graves and Bill Cavins. The sofa-bound Couch Potatoes are diving into a bag of Eagle Snacks Idaho Russet, the chip they chose as the No. 1 nosh.

By Dixie D. Vereen