EFFECTS OF SIZE AND SPACING OF WHOLE AND CUT SEED ON YIELDS AND RETURNS FROM SEBAGO POTATOES AT HASTINGS, FLORIDA

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INTRODUCTION

Effects of size and spacing of whole seed tubers and cut seed pieces on yields of potatoes has been studied by numerous workers (*10*)[2]. These studies show that potato yields from whole and cut seed are approximately the same when both types of seed are equal in size and planted at the same spacing (*5*, *8*). Experiments on size of seed indicate that the potato plant is more vigorous, has more stems and tubers per hill and produces a larger total yield as size of the seed is increased (*1*, *4*, *5*). Data for different seed spacings show that the number of tubers and total yield per unit area of land increases as seed of a given size are spaced closer in the row, but the tubers of the new crop are smaller. However, yields of U. S. 1 potatoes from seed of different sizes or from planting seed of a given size at different spacings appear to be dependent on season, locality, variety, soil fertility and other factors.

Tests were conducted at the Potato Investigations Laboratory, Hastings, Florida, from 1943 to 1953 to determine the best size and spacing of whole and cut seed for the production of Sebago potatoes. Results are reported in this bulletin.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cut seed pieces weighing 1, 1½ and 2 ounces each were planted 14, 12, 10, 8 and 6 inches apart in the row from 1943 to 1946. Whole and cut seed of these sizes were planted 12, 10 and 8 inches apart in 1949, 1950, 1952 and 1953. Certified Sebago seed potatoes were used in all tests. They were grown in Bladen fine sand and loamy fine sand in single-row plots 25

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[2] Italic figures in parentheses refer to Literature Cited.