RECOMMENDATIONS

The quantity of seed required per acre to produce the most profitable yields of potatoes in the Hastings area depends on many factors and conditions, including type of soil, its natural fertility, period of time under cultivation, pH reaction, adequacy of drainage, timeliness and effectiveness of irrigation, maintenance of organic matter through use of cover crops, kind and amount of fertilizer used in growing the potatoes and control of diseases and insects.

On soils which combine the best characteristics and conditions for high potato production, it is recommended that 2-ounce seed be planted on an 8-inch spacing in rows 40 inches apart. This will require 24.6 hundred-pound sacks of seed per acre. Soils more acid than pH 5.0 should be limed to pH 5.3 to 5.5 prior to planting (*11*). Growers have found that the crop should receive 2,200 to 2,500 pounds of a 6-8-8 fertilizer per acre or its equivalent at planting time. They have found also that enough canals, field ditches and water furrows should be provided to remove water rapidly after excessive rainfall. Potatoes must be sprayed as needed to control early blight, late blight and insects; and irrigated when necessary in periods of dry weather.

On soils which are less productive because of inherent factors that render them below average in the production of potatoes, it is recommended that the present seeding rate of 14 to 15 hundred-pound sacks of seed per acre be continued. This will require the use of seed weighing approximately 1½ ounces each spaced 10 to 12 inches apart in rows 40 inches apart. Liming, fertilization, irrigation, drainage and disease and insect control practices should be the same as those used in growing potatoes on the better soils.

Whole U. S. 1B seed tubers may be used in place of U. S. 1 seed potatoes cut into seed pieces, when the cost of such seed and preparing it for planting does not exceed that of the latter.

LITERATURE CITED

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2. Brooke, D. L., and A. H. Spurlock. Labor and material requirements, costs of production and returns on Florida Irish potatoes. Fla. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 472. 1950.