

Points on Potatoes

Minnesota grown and certified seed potatoes in the shipping season of 1923-1924 were in demand from 14 states—from the Atlantic to the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico. In all, 300 carloads were shipped out. Those who had certified seed for shipment received from 30 to 50 cents a bushel more than they could have got for ordinary stock.

EXTENSION FOLDER NO. 10

Published by the University of Minnesota, College of Agriculture, Extension Division, F. W. Peck, Director, and distributed in furtherance of the purposes of the co-operative agricultural extension work provided for in the Act of Congress of May 8, 1924.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



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Points on Potatoes

The potato grower who can get the largest crop of the best potatoes at the lowest cost to the bushel is the grower who in the long run will profit most.

Getting the largest crop of the best potatoes at the lowest cost is a matter of studying the potato-growing game. The following are a few hints based on a very close study of the science of potato-growing by specialists at the Minnesota Experiment station, and on the experience of hundreds of potato-growers throughout the state:

The first thing is to choose a variety adapted to your local condition. Here are the varieties recommended for Minnesota:

Early:

Early Ohio, good in sandy soils north of Twin Cities and in Red River Valley loams.

Irish Cobbler, the best variety for peat soils.

Triumph, a round variety grown chiefly for seed stock in south.

Late:

Rural New Yorker, suitable for almost any mineral soil; well suited to central and southern Minnesota.

Green Mountain, better suited to rich heavy soils; popular in north central and northeastern Minnesota.

Burbank, suitable only for rich loose loam soils, and new soils rich in humus.

Burbank Russet, suitable for low, moist, friable, and peaty soils, and the home garden.

Spaulding Rose (King), recommended for light sandy soils.

Select seed with great care

Having decided on the variety adapted to your local needs and the market you have in mind, your next problem is to get top-notch seed. This means buying certified seed or planting a seed plot away from your main potato fields. If you start a seed plot of your own, do so with certified seed potatoes.

Treat your seed, before planting, with corrosive sublimate or hot formaldehyde.

Study needs of your soil

Before planting extensively, make sure of the needs of your soil. The question of fertilizers is one which your county agent can help you to settle, or the soils division of the Minnesota Experiment Station. Big gains are possible through the use of the right fertilizers.

Fall plowing best

For potatoes, fall plowing is best. The seedbed must be deep to give feeding area for the roots; from 7 to 8 inches. It is often a good plan to disk a field before plowing as well as after plowing. Disking before and after plowing gives a well powdered seedbed.

When to plant

Potatoes for the early market should be planted as soon as the soil can be prepared in the spring. Potatoes for the late market should be planted so as to give at least four weeks of growth after the hot midsummer days.

Cultivation, of course, is necessary.

Spraying pays and pays "big"

No potato grower would think of omitting the use of paris green or other poisons for the killing of potato bugs. No potato grower **should** think of getting along without Bordeaux mixture as a protection against those small sucking insects, the leaf-hoppers, or against the blights. Paris green and bordeaux may be mixed and sprayed together. Liquid spraying is better than dusting, and high-pressure sprayers give the best results.

Care in handling and storing needed

The growing of seed or table stock for the market calls for great care in harvesting the crop and in storing. Grading of potatoes also pays. Good storage must protect from freezing at from 32 to 40 degrees, must reduce air circulation to the lowest point possible, and keep down air moisture.

For further information, consult your county agent or write to the Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul.