



Standardization of Planting Time and Dehaulming on the Yield Potential and Quality in Potato in Reference to Tirap District of Arunachal Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted to produce maximum tuber yield of potato by evaluating in relation to different planting times (31 October, 15 and 30 November) and dehaulming dates (80, 90 and 100 days after planting) during 2015-17 at the farm of Krishi Vigyan Kendra- Tirap, Arunachal Pradesh. The results confirmed that different growth parameters, e.g. plant height, leaves number per hill and foliage coverage were significantly influenced by planting times. Significantly higher yields were recorded on November 15, with all the dehaulming dates ranging from 20.67 to 21.50 t/ha.

Keywords: Standardization, Potato, Sowing time, Dehaulming.

INTRODUCTION

The potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is the staple food crop in the world (Braun, 2010). Potato tubers accumulate large amounts of starch and are low in fat, and their protein content is comparable to that of grains. In addition, potatoes contain vitamin C (Rodriguez- Falcon et al., 2006). Processing potatoes need some quality such as high dry matter, low, reducing sugar etc. It is reported that desirable processing attributes greatly varied with location (Kumar et al., 2003), time of sowing (Kumar et al., 2007), cultivars, time of dehaulming (Marwaha, 1998; & Marwaha

et al., 2005) and reaving temperature during crop season (Pandey et al., 2008). Out of these, planting dates and haulm killing are important practices for cultivating and processing potatoes. Matured tubers are usually of high specific gravity, and this is closely connected with high yield and quality of chips. Moreover, mature potatoes are less susceptible to damage during transport, storage and reconditioning. The tuber's maturity is positively related to the planting dates and harvesting in particular regions, as well as weather conditions prevailing in a given year (Lisinka & Leszezynski, 1989).

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The optimum temperature for potato growth is 15–20°C, with a lower limit of 5–10°C and an upper limit of 25°C (Haverkort, 1990; & Prange et al., 1990). Photoperiod & temperature during the growing season affect potatoes' sugar and dry matter content (Burton, 1989). Yamaguchi et al. (1964) reported that starch content, specific gravity and yield of tubers were the highest and sugar content lowest when tubers were grown in soil temperature between 15 and 24°C, compared with tubers grown at higher temperatures. Interaction between planting date and date of haulm killing maintained growth period, which ultimately affects yield, tuber size distribution and quality. However, the research on the suitable date of planting and dehauling for good quality tuber yield has not been done in the eastern part of Arunachal Pradesh. In this situation, Krishi Vigyan Kendra – Tirap felt to standardize the planting time and crop growth duration to maximize tuber yield quality for potato growers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A field trial was conducted at the farm of Krishi Vigya Kendra- Tirap during October 2016 – March 2017 & October 2017- March-2018. The farm's soil is well drained sandy loam having a pH of 5.8. The variety was Kufri Jyoti. The treatment consisted of 3 planting times of October 31 (D1), November 15 (D2) and November 30 (D3) along with 3 dehauling dates of 80 (M1), 90 (M2), 100 (M3) days after planting (DAP). The treatments were arranged in a factorial randomized Complete Block Design with 3 replications. The unit plot size was 3.0 m × 3.0 m, and potato tubers were planted at a spacing of 60 cm × 25 cm. Two outer rows of plants were treated as border rows, while the three middle rows in each plot were regarded as experimental row plants. The land was fertilized with 40:60:30 kg/ha, respectively of NPK fertilizers in addition to 6 t/ha of cow dung (Hossain et al., 2007). The NPK fertilizers were applied in the forms of urea, triple super phosphate (TSP), muriate of potash (MoP), and gypsum. The total amount

of cow dung, TSP, MoP, respectively and half of the urea was applied at furrow and mixed up with soil by a tine before planting seed tubers. The rest of the urea was applied as top dress 35 days after planting, followed by irrigation. The well pre-sprouted, healthy, whole seed tubers of around 40±5 g sized were planted as per treatment. All other intercultural operations were followed as per schedule. The plants, who were straight upward, were monitored, and the final emergence count was taken at 30 days after planting. Dehauling was done manually as per treatment and potato tubers were harvested after 10 days of dehauling. Data on growth parameters- like plant height, number of compound leaves per hill, stem per hill were taken at 60 DAP from randomly selected 10 plants per plot, and yield per hectare was calculated during harvest from the middle rows yield. Foliage coverage was recorded at 60 DAP by using green method (Groves et al., 2005). The data on growth, yield components and yield were statistically analyzed using the computer package programme of MSTAT-C and means were compared using Duncan's Multiple Range Test at 5% significance level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Growth attributes

The emergence of sprouts (92%) was recorded at 30 days after planting (DAP) and the emergence was not significantly affected by the date of planting, dehauling schedule and their interaction (Table 1). This could be due to the same size of seed tubers planting. Besides, more or less favourable soil temperature and moisture conditions prevailed same in all the plots. As dehauling schedule treatments were started after 80 days of planting, so obviously it did not affect plant emergence as well as other growth parameters like plant's height, no of compound leaves per hill, no of stem per hill and foliage coverage area (%). Plant height was significantly influenced by the date of planting. The result showed that plant height decreased as the

advancement of the date of planting. Thirty-first October planting (D 1) recorded the highest plant height (80.7 cm) as compared to D2 and D3 planting dates (Table 1). These differences in plant height might be due to weather conditions. The highest plant height in D1 planting can be attributed to the most favourable environment, i.e. the long period of high temperature for plant growth during the cropping season. The minimum height of the plant was recorded with D3; which could have lower temperature compared to other planting dates, thus lower temperature might have reduced allocation of assimilates for growth than the remaining two planting dates. The similar findings have also been reported by Sandhu et al. (2012), Singh and Khurana (1997) and Ezekiel and Bhargava (1992). The number of leaf per hill was significantly influenced by date of planting and was insignificant in dehauling schedule and by the interaction between them (Table 1). The highest number of leaf per hill (67.1) was observed

with D2 planting followed by D1 planting (63.5) and they could not differ significantly with each other. The lowest leaf number per hill (55.4) was recorded in D3 planting. This can be described due to the first two planting dates experienced more favourable environmental conditions, apparently longer period than D3 planting. The number of leaves per hill was ranging from 51.1 to 71.8 in the nine treatment combinations, but their differences were non-significant. Stem per hill was not significantly influenced by dates of planting and dehauling and their interactions (Table 1). The stem per hill was ranged from 3.8 to 4.4 in the nine treatment combinations. This might be due to the similarity of the seed tuber's size. The foliage coverage was not significantly influenced by date of planting, dehauling schedule and their interaction (Table 1). The maximum foliage coverage was recorded by the result of interaction between the date of planting & dehauling.

Table: 1 Effect of planting dates and dehauling on the growth of potato (average pooled data of 2016-17 & 2017-18)

Treatments	Plant emergence (%)	Plant height(cm)	Leaf /hill(no.)	Stem/hill(no.)	Foliage coverage (%)
A. Date of planting					
D1	99.4	80.7a	63.5a	4.2	100.0a
D2	99.6	69.1b	67.1a	4.2	100.0a
D3	99.8	61.1c	55.4b	4.0	99.3b
B. Dehauling schedule					
M1	99.6	70.8	62.9	4.2	99.8
M2	99.4	69.4	62.0	4.3	99.7
M3	99.8	70.6	61.1	4.0	99.7
Interaction between A & B					
D1M1	99.3	80.8	59.2	4.2	100.0
D1M2	99.7	79.6	63.1	4.0	100.0
D1M3	99.3	81.9	68.1	4.4	100.0
D2M1	99.7	69.0	71.8	4.1	100.0
D2M2	99.0	70.0	65.4	4.1	100.0
D2M3	100.0	68.3	64.2	4.1	100.0
D3M1	99.7	62.8	57.7	4.2	99.3
D3M2	99.7	58.7	57.4	4.1	99.0
D3M3	100.0	61.7	51.1	3.8	99.0
CV (%)	0.79	6.19	8.65	9.29	0.35
SE (A×B)	0.13	1.75	1.51	0.07	0.08

D1 = 31 October, D2 = 15 November & D3 = 30 November, and M1 = 80 days after planting (DAP), M2 = 90 DAP, D3 = 100 DAP

Grades of tubers

The maximum number of tuber per hill (4.1) was recorded with 31 October (D1) planting date and it differed significantly with the other two planting dates (Table 2). The data shows that the tuber number per hill decreased significantly as the crop growth period was lengthened by delaying dehauling (Table 2). The maximum number of tuber numbers per hill (3.7) was recorded at M1 (dehauling at 80 DAP) and the minimum (2.9) was observed at M3 (dehauling at 100 DAP). The similar results were reported by Kumar and Lal (2006). The combined effect of planting date and dehauling schedule significantly influenced tuber number per hill (Table 2). The maximum number of tuber per hill (4.8) was recorded in D1M1, closely followed by D1M2 (4.6), but the differences were statistically similar. The minimum number of tuber per hill (2.7) was observed in D2M3 followed by D2M2 and D3M2. At dehauling of 80 DAP, the crop period was comparatively short, resultant full bulking not completed. Consequently, the tuber number per hill was higher in D1M1 and D1M2 treatment combination.

The maximum weight of tuber per hill (97.5 g) was recorded at D1 planting and the lowest (70.0 g) was observed at D2 planting closely followed by D3 planting (70.9 g) (Table 2). This might be due to lesser growth period was received by the D1 planting for bulking compared to others that caused smaller size of tuber. The results showed that the increase the crop growth period, the decrease in tuber weight per hill significantly. The maximum weight of tuber weight per hill (90 g) was observed at M1 dehauling which was at par with M2 (84.4 g). However, the minimum weight of tuber (64.0 g) was observed in D3 planting. It might be due to lengthening the crop growth period, which facilitated more accumulation of photosynthates for tuber bulking resulted from more bigger sized tubers and negligible of the non-processing grade tuber. The combined effect of planting and dehauling significantly influenced the tuber weight per hill (Table 2). The maximum weight of the tuber per hill (114.4 g) was recorded in D1M1 which was also remained at par with D1M2 (111.1 g). Whereas the minimum (67.6 g) was observed in D3M2 followed by D3M3 (68.0 g), which were not significant.

Table 2. Effect of planting dates and dehauling on yield components of potato (average pooled data of 2016-17 & 2017-18)

Treatments	Grades of tubers per hill (by number)			Grades of tubers per hill (by wt.(g))		
	<40 mm	≥40 mm	Total	<40 mm	≥40 mm	Total wt.
A. Date of planting						
D1	4.1 a	4.0 b	8.1	97.5 a	242.6 c	340.1 c
D2	2.9 b	4.9 a	7.8	70.0 b	327.3 a	396.9 a
D3	3.0 b	4.8 a	7.8	70.9 b	292.7 b	364.6 b
B. Dehauling schedule						
M1	3.7 a	4.2 b	7.9	90.0 a	272.7 c	362.7
M2	3.4 b	4.5 ab	8.0	84.3 a	286.9 b	371.2
M3	2.9 c	4.8 a	7.6	63.9 b	303.9 a	367.8
Interaction between A & B						
D1M1	4.7 a	3.6 b	8.4	114.4 a	207.8 f	322.1 d
D1M2	4.6 a	3.7 b	8.3	111.1 a	231.8 e	342.9 c
D1M3	2.9 bc	4.7 a	7.6	67.1 bc	288.3 d	355.4 bc
D2M1	3.3 b	4.6 a	7.9	78.4 b	317.6 bc	396.0 a
D2M2	2.7 c	5.0 a	7.7	74.1 b	326.7 ab	400.8 a
D2M3	2.7 c	5.0 a	7.7	56.5 c	337.5 a	394.1 a
D3M1	3.1 bc	4.7 a	7.8	77.0 b	292.9 d	369.9 b
D3M2	2.9 bc	5.0 a	7.9	67.6 bc	302.4 cd	370.0 b
D3M3	3.0 bc	4.7 a	7.7	68.0 bc	285.8 d	353.8 bc
CV (%)	6.85	7.60	4.74	7.99	3.17	2.45
SE (A×B)	0.15	0.1	0.08	1.13	1.09	1.54

D1 = 31 October, D2 = 15 November & D3 = 30 November, and M1 = 80 days after planting (DAP), M2 = 90 DAP, D3 = 100 DAP.

Yield

The yield of non-processing grade tubers has statistically differed with planting dates, dehaulming and their interaction (Table 2). The maximum yield of non-processing grade tuber (7.2 t/ha) was recorded in D1 planting, which was significantly better over the other two planting dates and it was around 32% of the total produce. Similarly, the higher yield of non-processing grade tuber (6.5 t/ha) was obtained with dehaulming at 80 DAP (M1), which was significantly higher than all other dehaulming dates, it was around 28%. These results corroborate the earlier findings of Singh and Kushwah (2010) where higher production of small size tubers obtained at earlier dehaulming may be due to lesser time available for bulking. The maximum yield of tuber (8.8 t/ha) was obtained in D1M1 followed by D1M2 (8.4 t/ha) and these were statistically similar and it was around 42% and 35% of the total yield, respectively. Whereas the lowest (3.8 t/ha) was observed in D2M3, around 26%. The data shows that at every planting date, the yield of non-processing grade tuber was decreased by the delayed of dehaulming except D₃M₃.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the field trial, this can be concluded that farmers in the areas of eastern districts of Arunachal Pradesh, can grow potatoes following November 15 planting time plus dehaulming at 90 days after planting for achieving higher grade quality tuber yield.

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The author declares no conflict of interest.

Author's contribution

The trial was designed and conducted by the first author, data was analyzed by second author, result & discussion part were

completed by third author and references collected by fourth author. Finally, all the writing work and correction done by first author.

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